[Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.

THE

Nonconformist.

Vol. XXXIX.—New Series, No. 1698. LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1878. { PRICE 5d. POST-FREE 5½d.

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EARL RUSSELL.

One can hardly fail to be struck with somewhat of melancholy in contemplating a man, who by the mere protraction of life beyond the common limit, has seen the friends and foes of his active career drop out of the ranks one by one; who has outlived his generation; whose associations and memories are all with a past of which he is almost the sole representative. Something of this feeling we had in thinking of the late Earl. His work was done. The world, *his* world, had imperceptibly drifted away in many respects from the order of thought he had been brought up in, which he had adopted and from which he never swerved. He might have used the words of Charles Lamb, "We have shaken hands with the world's business; we have done with it; we have discharged ourselves of it. The drama has shut in upon us at the fourth act. We have nothing more to expect but in a short time a sick bed and a dismissal."

Nevertheless, this sad and leaden-coloured aspect which seems to overspread the closing years of the late earl's life exists in our own fancy, perhaps, mainly. The apparent apathy of old age results often from the subsidence of the eager passions of personal ambition which seem to be inseparable from an active and successful political career; a subsidence which in the better sort of men is not merely the result of exhaustion and satiety, but of that moderating, chastening, though painful experience, which teaches men the vanity of so many things the world esteems most highly, while it brings into clearer light those solid and permanent aims of human life which are the same for the peer and the peasant, and which the absorbing pursuit of political distinction is apt to thow into the shade. Thus, while the world, looking as it does at the outside, views the waning fame and failing influence of the spent statesman with pity, a deeper insight might see all the qualities which ever gave true nobility to his career flourishing in unabated vigour; the care for the public good; the disregard of self; the charity which delights to recognise a merit or to veil a defect in friend or foe. The inundation has subsided, but the fertilising soil which it carried remains behind.

We believe that this was the case with the late Earl Russell. For the last ten years he had taken little part in public life. His influence over the Liberal party had become almost extinct. Yet the sterling qualities of the man, his unswerving integrity, his zeal for the public good, his modesty and candour, his simple piety shone with unabated lustre. And we should not be surprised to find that his latter years, clouded though they were by the premature death of his eldest son, were among the happiest of his life.

Lord Russell entered on his Parliamentary career at a critical time, and speedily emerged from the crowd of competitors for political distinction. It is true that he had in his favour both the state of parties which existed at that period, and the social position which he enjoyed; and that without these advantages he could scarcely have made so deep a mark on the history of the century as he has done. But it is also true that these exceptional circumstances would have been powerless to raise him to the position of influence and usefulness which he enjoyed for many years as the guiding genius of the Liberal party, unless he had possessed mental and moral qualities of a very rare order.

He commenced his political career at the close of the Napoleonic war, during which the fiscal and political reforms which the country needed, and was bent on securing, had inevitably remained in abeyance. Had the policy of the Tory party continued to be directed by the far-sighted sagacity of Pitt, there is little doubt that he would have taken advantage of the peace to bring forward the measures of reform which had occupied his mind previous to the war. And had this happened the course of English history during the present century might have been very different, and the name of Russell much more obscure. But the reins of power fell into the hands of Liverpool and Castlereagh, and they turned the popularity they had acquired by conducting the great war to a successful and glorious issue, to the base use of staving off demands for reform of every kind. Hence came Lord John Russell's opportunity. After his success in procuring the disfranchisement of Grampound in 1821, he turned his attention to a general scheme of Parliamentary reform. It was no easy task he undertook. He had to contend, not only with with the opposition of those who resisted reform on principle, but with the unscrupulous hostility of the patrons of boroughs, and—more hard still—with the indifference or timidity of his own party. The echoes of the French Revolution were still reverberating through Europe, and men of all parties were apt to think that the best way to keep the red spectre at a distance was to resist every proposal for reform, however moderate and reasonable it might be. The Whigs themselves had not yet mastered Lord Russell's aphorism, "There is nothing so conservative as Progress." In contending with these difficulties Lord Russell's position as a cadet of the house of Bedford, and the constitutional moderation and calmness of his temperament, stood him in good stead. He has described his own disposition as being "always favourable to compromise and moderation." However this may have been, he, with true insight, discerned that the reform of the representative system lay at the root of almost all other reforms, and pursued his great aim with extraordinary pertinacity and courage. The Reform Bill of 1832 was boldly conceived and boldly carried, and whatever share others may have had in passing it, the chief credit of the measure will always be assigned to Lord John Russell.

The qualities which enabled Lord John to carry the reform of the representative system to a triumphant issue were also the secret of his success in respect to other measures. It is singular how good, as a rule, his judgment was, especially in matters of domestic policy. We may almost say that every cause he espoused was a losing one when he espoused it, and that he made it, or helped to make it, a winning one. Catholic emancipation, the amendment of the marriage law, the abolition of slavery, national education, free-trade, the reform of the Irish Church, and of the tenure of land in Ireland—all these he took up when they seemed almost hopeless, and he largely contributed to carry them to a successful issue. It must have been no common order of judgment which thus enabled him to discern the true wants of the time.

One of Lord John Russell's earliest and most brilliant services—one which will for ever render his name memorable in the annals of civil and religious liberty—was his motion for the repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts in 1828, during the premiership of the Duke of Wellington. Earl Russell has recorded in his "Recollections" the surprise he felt when the motion was carried by a majority of forty. And it is indeed extraordinary that this measure should have been passed so easily in the House of Commons of that day, which with true instinct dreaded every proposal for reform, not so much for its own sake as because of the further reforms it was sure to lead to. This triumph paved the way for Catholic Emancipation, which was carried by the Tories, much as was the Reform Act of 1867, in the teeth of their principles and professions. Lord John Russell and his colleagues patriotically resolved to give Sir Robert Peel their cordial support; and waived every objection to the bill in order not to embarrass the Government in the arduous and probably uncongenial task they had undertaken.

No doubt Lord Russell often succeeded where a more uncompromising man would have failed. Though persevering he was not unyielding, if a principle was not involved. If he could not do all he wished to do he was content to do what he could. He would have preferred to settle the Irish Church difficulty by concurrent endowment. He, however, discovered that this solution was not favoured by the House of Commons, and left the settlement to Mr. Gladstone. He was always ready to profit by the advice and assistance of his political opponents, and notably was in the habit of consulting the Duke of Wellington during his lifetime on many matters of importance. His judgment of allies and of opponents was on the whole candid and just. He had hard words for few except the Adullamites who defeated his Reform Bill in 1867, and whom he never could forgive; and the Ritualists, to whom he was certainly unjust. He was modest in his estimate of his own merits and labours. "My persuasion is," he wrote in his "Recollections," "that I have been received with quite as much favour as I deserved. I think what I have done well has been honestly supported, and that where my measures have miscarried the failure has been owing, not to undue animosity or malignant misrepresentation, but to errors which I have committed from mistaken judgment or a mistaken appreciation of facts." Earl Russell's life is scarcely one to kindle enthusiasm now the questions which he handled, and which were burning questions then, have fallen almost into ashes. But it will be remembered by Englishmen with pride for its simple integrity and steady consistency when perhaps more brilliant achievements are forgotten.

LORD BEACONSFIELD AND THE CONGRESS.

For a fortnight past we have been prepared for the announcement which was made in both Houses of Parliament on Monday night, that

all the obstacles to the assembling of a Congress to consider the provisions of the Treaty of San Stefano have been removed. It appears from the despatches read in the House of Lords that Russia has wisely waived her objection to the full discussion of the preliminary treaty demanded by Her Majesty's Ministers, and the Plenipotentiaries are invited by the German Government to meet at Berlin "to discuss there the stipulations of the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano, concluded between Russia and Turkey," with the express understanding that each Power, in accepting it, consents to admit the free discussion of the whole of the contents of the Treaty of San Stefano, and that it is ready to participate therein." Lord Beaconsfield has thus substantially gained his point. The Cabinet of St. Petersburg accepts the full discussion which has been required of it, but without submitting to the unreserved surrender which was demanded by Lord Salisbury.

It is to be observed that our Government have taken a course which they might have taken long ago to the great advantage of the industrial interests of the country, and which Lord Derby, soon after his resignation, recommended as the best means of ensuring success. Russia has all along contended that she had no objection to a discussion of all the provisions of the Treaty, but that she required some guarantee that its essential objects should not be frustrated. The British Cabinet at the eleventh hour condescended to satisfy this reasonable requirement. Through Count Schouvaloff they have conveyed to the Czar a general view of the amendments required in that instrument. These were duly considered at St. Petersburg and Vienna, and apparently accepted in the main. The negotiations that have been entered upon have brought about a preliminary understanding between the several Powers, so that it is proclaimed on all sides that the chief object of the Congress is to register foregone conclusions, and we are even told by the *Agence Russe* that one sitting of the Congress should suffice to settle everything. There seems to be little doubt that Russia has consented to the proposal that there shall be two Bulgarias instead of one; that the boundary of the southern province shall be so defined as to do no injustice to Greeks and Albanians; that the territory in Armenia annexed to the dominions of the Czar is to be limited in extent; and that the indemnity exacted from Turkey shall be less onerous and unjust than was originally proposed. But the St. Petersburg Cabinet has from the first expressed its readiness to make large concessions—such concessions as would secure European sanction to the Treaty of San Stefano.

If the British Parliament and the public were prepared to hear that the Congress was to meet, they were not prepared for the announcement that this country was to be represented by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary. The news naturally excited serious comment in both Houses of Parliament on Monday. Lord Granville asked if there was a precedent for such a step, to which Lord Beaconsfield replied that there was not, but that such questions must be decided by the necessities of the case. Precedents, indeed, appear to be of little account with our Prime Minister when the question at issue is the extension of the royal prerogative, and putting in abeyance constitutional forms. Indeed he creates his own precedents. The objections put forward by the noble leader of the Opposition to the course proposed were, however, of great gravity. He called attention to the fact that some months ago Lord Derby said that Her Majesty's Ministers thought it most undesirable that this country should be represented in Congress by the Foreign Secretary, because he would be cut off from all consultation with his colleagues, and would have to act upon instructions which he himself had no hand in preparing. Other Powers might take such a course, because their system of government is different from our own. But the constitutional scruples of the Cabinet, which were so strong in February, have entirely disappeared in June. The two most important members of the Cabinet are to go to Berlin while Parliament is in session, and those who remain must necessarily be cyphers. If, as Lord Granville said, the main lines of our Eastern policy are already substantially settled, they could better be put into shape by trained diplomatists than by Ministers not conversant with details and forms. But if serious questions should come up, the two plenipotentiaries might not agree, or an emergency might arise, and the Cabinet would be left outside of their decision altogether. The same view was taken by Earl Grey, a peer who has generally supported the Eastern policy of the Government. As his lordship said, the novel arrangement agreed to leaves Parliament "without the security which it has hitherto expected to have, that a question very materially affecting the important interests of the country should not be decided without the collective responsibility of the whole Cabinet." In short, Lord Beaconsfield has, with his wonted effrontery, made another inroad on the constitutional usages of this country. Himself and the Foreign Secretary will enter Congress much in the same capacity as Prince Gortschak off or Count Andrassy, who represent autocratic power.

It may, of course, be taken for granted that Lord Beaconsfield and his *alter ego* do not go to Berlin merely to sign protocols. We are told by one of their organs—which is only reiterating what has for some time been current in society—"that the work which the Congress will meet to perform must be something far wider than a mere amendment of the Treaty of San Stefano; that it is, in short, nothing less than a solution of the Eastern Question, by a resettlement of the whole conditions of government and a readjustment of the balance of power in the East of Europe." Such a vague programme as this excites more fear than hope. Neither Parliament nor the country are vouchsafed the slightest explanation of the high policy to which these two Ministers are about to commit them, any more than they were permitted to give any preliminary sanction to the summoning of Indian troops to Europe. In the latter case the prerogative of the Crown was stretched. In the present instance, we must wait with open mouth to see after what fashion England is to be dragged at the chariot-wheels of an autocratic and mysterious Prime Minister, who loves dramatic surprises, and openly and profoundly avows his dislike of a Liberal policy. It is, of course, possible that Lords Beaconsfield and Salisbury will propound, and induce the Plenipotentiaries to accept, such a resettlement of the Eastern Question as will conduce to a long peace and promote the interests of the various races concerned. We should be agreeably surprised at such an outcome of their efforts. If Lord Beaconsfield acts in the future as he has acted in the past, the cause of suffering nationalities will not find a champion in the active opponent of Italian unity, but he is much more likely to propound some ingenious scheme for rehabilitating the Turk, and saddling his country with onerous responsibilities in respect to the Ottoman race which cannot possibly be fulfilled. Above all, judging from his antecedents, we fear our Prime Minister will follow out those Imperialist theories which will place us alongside the great military Powers of Europe, commit us to obligations that are alien to the traditional foreign policy of England, and oblige us, willingly or unwillingly, to maintain armaments adequate to support his new-fangled and dangerous theories.

THE CRIME IN BERLIN.

THE expressions of horror and indignation called forth on every side by the renewed attempt on the veteran Emperor's life are not only natural, but creditable to our common nature. Yet, after all, such expressions may be taken as a matter of course, and it is of more interest to inquire what significance should be attached to so startling a repetition of a dastardly and futile crime. Futile it is, surely, in any event; for even should the old man, the object of these diabolical passions, unfortunately sink under a shock which few at his years could withstand, the only effect must be that the institutions represented by him, and, it is presumed, attacked through his person, would receive a new lease of life. The attempt of Hödel was not sufficient to induce the German Parliament to acquiesce in the repressive measures proposed by the Government, probably because many held that the deed was the result of insanity rather than of political violence. But the outburst of anger, loyalty, and affection, naturally produced by this renewed effort at murder, may well sweep away all scruples, and unite a large majority of the Parliament in support of any new measures that may be proposed. Such effects of this kind of wickedness are so obvious, so universal, so inevitable, that the only wonder is how even a crack-brained fanatic does not perceive that it is not a tyrant, but his own ideal he is murdering. And the wonder becomes still greater when the fanatic is not isolated, but a member of an organised conspiracy. If, as seems at present but too likely, there is an extreme section of the Socialists that is responsible for these atrocious attempts upon a venerable life, it is difficult to conceive how any political passion consistent with sincerity can have betrayed them into such a suicidal course.

We are reluctant to come to the conclusion that such is the case, but there appears to be too much evidence for it. It may be said, indeed, that one act of madness which has secured the excited attention of the world tends to repeat itself by its morbid action upon diseased brains. But as a matter of experience the madness always latent in a community does not betake itself to political murder unless there are some strong and deeply-seated predisposing causes. Now the misery produced in Germany by the reaction of a splendidly victorious foreign policy has made life almost intolerable to a very large number of people. When wages fall and the price of necessaries rises, a point is at last reached where despair itself prepares many ready instruments of crime. Then is the time when wild theories that have brooded harmlessly for long in the brains of visionary enthusiasts find reckless men ready to give them a startling and violent exposition. And there seems too much reason to believe that a certain section of German Socialists have taken advantage of such a dangerous state of public feeling to force their objects upon the attention of the world. The wretched man who so nearly succeeded in accomplishing his intention last Sunday seems to be sufficiently well known to leave no doubt on his antecedents. He appears to have been born of respectable parents in the year 1848 He received a good education and completed his studies at Halle and Leipsic. At the latter university he took his degree as doctor of philosophy in 1876. Amongst the requirements for this degree is an essay, or treatise, on some appropriate subject. Nobiling chose, it appears, the history of agriculture in the Saal district. He had devoted himself specially to the scientific study of agriculture, and it is not unlikely that some crude speculations on the land question may have led to his connection with the Socialists. He became prominent in their organisation, which appears to be much more elaborate and complete than had generally been suspected. If his words in the immediate prospect of death are at all to be trusted, he must have been one of a circle who drew lots for more than one deadly mission. He has refused, and may perhaps persist in refusing, to name his associates, though, he says, he owes them no consideration. But his exclamation, in answer to a question from his own mother, who asked him "whether the lot had fallen upon him," seems a very strong indication of the truth. An act of incendiarism occurring at the residence of the Crown Prince about the same time is supposed, not without probability, to have originated in the same criminal conspiracy. If there is any truth in all this, Prince Bismarck has a harder task before him than he has ever accomplished yet in his victories over empires and churches. It is noteworthy that Nobiling, though born and

brought up a Protestant, has admitted in his examination an earnest sympathy both with Ultramontanes and Socialists. The conjunction appears a strange one; but it is not inexplicable if the circle to which he belongs profess themselves the champions of individual liberty against the Procrustean system represented by Prince Bismarck. It is not likely that against such evils any increase of the restriction and repression that has produced them will be of much avail; nevertheless, it is only natural that these crimes should make such a policy seem for the present inevitable.

What are we to think of the moral condition of a highly cultivated community in which liberty is held to be incompatible with order? Germany has for a generation past been held u as a model to the world of a perfect system of national education. It is not only that all the people, almost without exception, learn to read, write, and cipher, but an admirable system of graduated schools and easily accessible universities offers remarkable facilities to every class of the community for securing the highest culture of which each member of it is susceptible. Nor can any evils under which Germany suffers be charged to the bugbear of secular education. In no country in the world is religious knowledge so universally insisted upon as a chief element in State instruction. The poor old Emperor, when assaulted by Hödel, is reported to have urged that religion should be more sedulously cultivated amongst the people. We cordially echo the wish. But we fear it will never be realised by the State machinery he had in view. The truth is that neither in religion, nor in journalism, nor in politics, does the German system leave any spontaneity to human nature. Religion becomes a dry curriculum of catechism and tradition, in which God and the Kaiser are brought into somewhat impious proximity. Politics are a mat'er of official Statecraft, in regard to which the opinion of the constituencies receives just as much attention as it pleases Prince Bismarck to give it, and no more. The most inspiring springs of human sympathy and social action are dried up. And when the constitutional body is racked with the pangs of poverty the only outlet for popular passion is through secret societies, conspiracy, and murder.

READJUSTMENT OF CHURCH AND STATE.

THIS is the title of an article in the new number of the *Nineteenth Century* by the Bishop of Gloucester. It is a characteristic article—very frank, very weak in style, limited in its range of vision, confident in its conclusions, and not likely to do much to further the object of the writer. It looks at the subject solely from the Ritualistic or High-Church standpoint; and whether it has, or has not, a quieting influence on the minds of other sections of the Church, the Ritualistic section—with whom the bishop is just now in deep disgrace—will repay scorn with scorn, and, instead of being convinced, will be increasingly irritated.

Bishop Ellicott admits that, "among the many suggestive and monitory signs of the present time, none deserve more attentive consideration than the widely-spread and openly-expressed desire for a readjustment of the relations now subsisting between the Church and the State." He thinks that this desire has greatly spread within the last few months, and "spread with some degree of rapidity," and that it is showing itself, not in one but in many, and in unexpected, quarters within the Church of England, and that "in a very short time the desire may pass into the form of definite action, and the present relations between the Church and the State become permanently endangered." It is "one of those unwelcome phenomena which must, we fear, be now distinctly recognised." That is the bishop's starting-point; while he also notes "the reckless indifference to the certain consequences of the proposals that are made." "A few of the more extreme writers have recognise1 this as an axiomatic truth, that, *if the Church wants real spiritual liberty, it must purchase it at the cost of disestablishment*"; but others, of quite a different way of thinking, make, in a free and loose way, "proposals which involve a violation of existing compacts that would bring about a rupture with the State, as certain as it would be promptly and perilously final."

To illustrate this he describes certain proposals which have come before the Convocations—including the bill the revolutionary character of which we have lately pointed out. Having enumerated the restraints which are involved in the present relations of Church and State, he discusses the grounds on which, it is contended, those relations need readjustment. He denies that the Church is, as alleged, checked at every turn by the want of elasticity in regard to its formularies, and refers not only to recent modifications of the Act of Uniformity, but to the multiplication of special services in the Church, which prove the possession of considerable freedom. He also points to "the singularly languid movements of the two Houses of Convocation in the work of the revision of the rubrics," and the very few changes made, as further proofs that "a large amount of nonsense has been talked about the hindrances to progress that have been caused by obsolete rubrics."

A second plea for the present agitation is the unfitness of the House of Commons to deal with ecclesiastical details; but "are not these fears of the House of Commons really exaggerated," and, to a great extent, imaginary? That question the bishop answers by referring to the relaxations of the Act of Uniformity, and to the passing of the Table of Lessons Bill. He also describes the probable result if a bill containing proposals for a revision of the rubrics were submitted to the House of Commons, and then declares that "really it does seem monstrous that there should be all this parade of apprehension in having any dealings with Parliament—all this foolish and provocative language about the usurpations of the State and the prostrate and humiliated position of the freest Church in Christendom."

A third reason why readjustment is desired, viz, that the Church cannot frame its own bye-laws, he says, "is simply contrary to the facts of the case;" because, if it could be shown that there were a real need for new canons and constitutions, the needed permission would be given to Convocation; in fact, that body is already at work in that direction. "The real truth is, that the want of liberty complained of is only another mode of saying that the Crown ought *not* to have the power with which it is clothed by the Act of Henry VIII."

So the conclusion arrived at is, that a good case for readjustment has not been made out; but, nevertheless, the proposed remedies are discussed. The admission of the laity into Convocation is one; but "all intelligent persons are now beginning to see clearly" that this "would put an end to Convocation as part of the Constitution. Convocation so remodelled would cease to be Convocation—it would be something else." "The general mind is now turning away from these modes of readjustment;" seeing that the introduction of the laity into Convocation would be eminently hazardous. *There is something about it that breathes a little more of the freshness and bracing air of a non-Established Church than is quite comforting to the nerves of the ordinary old-fashioned Churchman.*"

The proposed formation of a lay body, sitting outside Convocation, that should confer with it, is almost contemptuously dismissed, as being contrary to common-sense, and unpractical also. It might be of some use for a time, but could never safely become permanent; for if it did it would prepare for, and accelerate the separation of Church and State. Even an improvement in the procedure of Convocation would be difficult, and would be likely to bring the clergy into collision with Parliament. Improvements in detail might be effected, "a little more play" being given to Convocation; but these would not involve the radical changes which "our readjusting friends" desire.

New legislative arrangements, to facilitate the passage of bye-laws in minor ecclesiastical matters, are next considered, and the idea of Convocation preparing schemes, and submitting them to Parliament for approval or rejection, is declared to be a well-intentioned remedy, but likely to be "very many times worse than the disease." A more hopeful plan is that of referring all such matters to a joint committee of both Houses of Parliment, and that is the only scheme of which the Bishop speaks approvingly; but he admits that it would be objected to by "all the adherents of the strong Church party" who have "been led away into dreams of an independent spirituality."

The general conclusions arrived at are—first, that no proposals which have yet emanated from the ecclesiastical side will ever be accepted by the laity; secondly, that no "proposals that involve, directly or indirectly, any attempt to supersede the Act of the submission of the clergy will ever be tolerated by the nation while the Church and State remain in union"; thirdly, that it will be wiser to "postpone any kind of action until the issues of present and coming struggles have been fully disclosed and properly estimated." What follows, under this last head, is vague and oracular. There are indications that we are on the very eve of some foolish and dangerous demonstration. It is hinted that the recalcitrant clergy will be deprived of their benefices, and that "some prompt coercion" will "precipitate some action that will materially alter our estimate of the present situation." "*Submission or exodus is now not far off*," and it is better "to wait till the termination of the present scene in the ecclesiastical drama, before we commit ourselves to experiments on the ancient and constitutional relations of this Church and realm." "The great upshot seems to be—wait!" "There is now plain defiance of the State," and "no readjustment will be tolerated by the laity at the present time." "The present foolish effervescence will soon be over," and when the protesting party have gone over to Rome, much that now seems hopeless in the matter of readjustment will be "brought about by the practical leading of events." And the article closes by saying—"For these better days, now not far distant, it will be prudent for us to wait. The bonds of Church and State are now suffering some degree of tension. When that tension is over readjustments will be found to be more easy and more hopeful."

Not many comments are called for by such an utterance as this. Bishop Ellicott who, not long ago was all gloom and alarm at the spread of sacerdotalism in the Church, is now as blindly optimist as the Primate himself. We have said blindly; but, in fact, he has had his eyes lately opened to the existence of new disturbing forces in the Establishment; but as yet he only sees men as trees walking. We are not sure that he understands the principles and feelings of the ecclesiastical section of which he writes with such glib contemptuousness. We are, however, sure that he has watched to very little purpose the drift of events within the Church of England during the last fifty years. He sees just the things that are around him and on the surface, and writes about them with an airy self-complacency which does not indicate either deep thoughtfulness or prophetic insight. He eschews principles carefully, or else refers to them disparagingly, and writes more like an Erastian politician than a Christian bishop. Like Archbishop Tait, he seems to think the English Establishment the best of all possible institutions; or, if he admits the existence of evils, "*Non possumus*" is his reply to all remedial suggestions. "The great upshot" of his present deliverance is, he admits—wait! When the present "tension" is over, that which has caused the tension may be hopefully dealt with, but not now. It is the old fable over again, but it is a bishop and not a simple rustic, who stands by the riverside, waiting till the water ceases to flow, before attempting the passage across. The moral has been written many times already—need we repeat it now?

DENOMINATIONAL ENCROACHMENT.

LAST week Mr. Pease called the attention of the House of Commons to an alteration in the code of the Education Department which is far more significant than it seems at first sight. There is no department of Government in which the difference between a Liberal and Conservative Ministry is felt more heavily than in that which has to do with education. And one of the weakest points in Mr. Forster's legislation on the subject was the number of opportunities it gave for sectarian encroachment whenever the Tories might be in office. The alteration on which the member for Durham animadverted is a case in point. It introduces the rule that no grant is to be made to "any school which is not previously in receipt of an annual grant if the Department think that the school is unnecessary." Now, this rule seems at first sight very innocent. And no possible objection could be made to it if a system of perfect religious equality had been established in all parts of the country, and if sectarianism were allowed no place in public elementary schools. But let us hear Mr. Pease as to the manner in which the rule works. He called the attention of Parliament to numerous instances in which the established sect had monopolised the school provision for a district where Nonconformity was largely prevalent. It is easy for the established denomination to do this because it is, to a very large extent, saved from the expenses of public worship by the application of national endowments to its use. The purses of its adherents are thus set free for the maintenance of schools. But in various degrees, dependent on the disposition of the clergyman, those schools are objectionable to Nonconformists on account of the obtrusion of Church practices and principles. Experience shows that the conscience clause is no sufficient protection, partly because, rightly or wrongly, parents, and still more children, feel that the necessity for availing themselves of it is itself a humiliation. Under these circumstances, Dissenters are sometimes driven to the erection of a school which the Education Department regards as superfluous. And in point of numbers it may really be superfluous. But in such a case that is not the point to be considered. The addition of another building costs the Department nothing, for the days of building grants are happily gone by. Each child can only earn one grant; and it cannot possibly matter a pin's point to an impartial department whether the child earns that grant in one school or another. But of course it makes a great difference to the clergyman and his subscribers; for they lose so many scholars and so many school-fees as well as examination grants in proportion. We do not wonder at their disliking this; but we do maintain that it is no part of the duty of the Department to protect them. They can easily keep all the children to themselves by agreeing to conduct the school on unsectarian principles. And if they decline to do this they ought in all fairness to be left to bear the expenses incurred by sectarianism.

The case most prominently urged by Mr. Pease was one of peculiar hardship. The town of Stanhope forms part of a School Board district. And, according to the Act of 1870 it is the duty of the Board to provide the town not only with sufficient but with "suitable" accommodation—an epithet which has always been interpreted as having special reference to religious character. This duty the School Board was not only willing but anxious to discharge. Two-thirds of the people of Stanhope, it is said, attend Nonconformist Churches; yet the whole of the educational provision in the town itself is supplied by the Established denomination. The Board, therefore, wished to be allowed to build a school for 200 children. But the Department, on the strength of the Minute now transferred to the Code as a binding rule, refused permission. The Board urged that in consideration of the special circumstances the rule should be relaxed; but the Department absolutely rejected the appeal. The Wesleyans, with their usual energy, now came forward, and built a school, which was no sooner opened than it was filled, thus proving local opinion as to the reality of the need. When this new school was in full operation, the voluntary managers applied to have it examined with a view to a grant. The examination was allowed, and the report was very favourable, but the grant was again inexorably refused. Now such action on the part of the Government appears to us entirely indefensible, except on the assumption that the Established Church has a preferential claim to have the education of this country in its hands. Nay, we may go farther than that. For we may confidently presume that if the new school had been under Roman Catholic management, and filled with Roman Catholic children, the grant would not have been refused. We are justified in saying so by the absence of any instance in which a Catholic application of the sort has been declined, whatever may have been the accommodation in the neighbourhood. It is Protestant Nonconformists alone who are the objects of this educational persecution at the hands of our rulers.

It has been urged that the new rule is only an application of the Education Act of 1870, which in section 98 leaves it to the discretion of the Education Department whether, in a *School Board district*, an additional and apparently unnecessary school should be allowed to receive a grant or not. And, farther, the 97th section gives the Educational Department power to alter from time to time the conditions of receiving a grant in any manner that may seem good to them within exceedingly wide and indefinite limits. Those conditions are always to exclude any payment for instruction in religious subjects, and also any payment in excess of the whole income of a school from other sources. But beyond this no limitations are imposed on the discretion of the Education Department, except such as may be involved in the general scope of the Act. On these grounds we are afraid it is clear that the Department, though it may have strained the law, has not overstepped it, and the Act of 1870 is again convicted of very serious imperfections. All that can be said is that a Tory Education Department is certain to exercise its discretion in a manner adverse to religious equality and popular self-government. Even the very moderate Liberalism of Mr. Forster felt that there was a very great difference between School Board districts where a certain amount of unsectarian education is secured, and other districts where a rich denomination easily secures to itself a sectarian monopoly. In the former, the Department might well hesitate before it sanctioned any increase of sectarian rivalry with the people's own schools; in the latter, the only way of securing any approach to fairness is to allow an unlimited competition. A Tory Department, however, naturally thinks differently, because it sees an opportunity of excluding over half the country any fresh attempt to break down an ecclesiastical monopoly.

LIBERALISM AND DISESTABLISHMENT.

UNDER this title Mr. Edward Jenkins, M.P., contributes a thoughtful and timely article to the current number of the *Fortnightly Review*, the drift of which may be indicated to those of our readers who may not be able to read it *in extenso*. Both in England and Scotland the incongruity of the State-Church system is revealed by the frantic efforts to reconcile the Church with an altered state of society, and to vindicate on its behalf claims at variance with the economy and policy of a free Government. In England two opposite forces are arrayed against each other, which Mr. Jenkins designates Protestantism and Hierarchism. In the sense now used, the former represents the claim of men to freedom of thought in all matters spiritual and temporal; the latter, the blotting out of direct responsibility, and the assumption in a few hands of the inalienable right to control the minds and judgments of the many. Hierarchism exacts power and pay for itself and blind obedience from its slaves, not to propositions, but to institutions, and is the direct counter of what is meant by Protestantism. It began with Tractarianism, and viewed politically is "that parochial system with its clerical influences, conditions, and forces, which is at this moment one of the greatest impediments to the further perfection of English liberties." It is a constitutional organisation which is pregnant with real dangers to a popular Constitution.

> The most august personage of the State is at its head, supported by a powerful body of ecclesiastical peers. Those Liberals, like the Duke of Argyll and Mr. Forster, who defend this conglomerate secular and political institution, for the sake of "the good it does," shut their eyes to its incalculably morbid and hurtful influences. It divides citizenship into two parties, exclusives and excluded. It mingles up unhealthily political and religious questions—"unhealthily," I say, not because I believe religion should be forgotten in politics, but because the religious views of one-half of the State are given a factitious influence against those of the other half, by the aid of State machinery and authority and a political supremacy.
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> There is a political view of the Church which cannot fail to excite in every Liberal mind repugnance and alarm. It is at once a nursery and a bulwark of mediæval ideas. It would carry back governments and politics, as well as dogma and ritual, to the Middle Ages. It is an active as well as obstructive foe to all Liberal political development. This may be said with truth, spite of many exceptional instances of partially developed Liberalism among the bishops and clergy. The priest—in the sacerdotal sense—is in effect a political servant paid and patronised by the State to interfere with its healthiest growth; he is a doctor who not only undertakes to prescribe for your ailments, but to intervene in the management of your affairs. This is a double injury — it secularises and debauches Christianity, it interferes with the working of a free constitution.

The writer maintains that both the sacerdotal Church of England and the democratic Church of Scotland illustrate the impossibility of reconciling any form of State aid to religion with free and just government. In the former the Laudian party is rapidly gaining power, and claims immunity from State interference in Church matters—its pretensions being based on the hierarchical theory. And certainly if the Church has been Divinely commissioned to declare the truth, it should not submit its creed, ritual, &c., to Parliamentary legislation or Government supervision. The assumptions, not merely of High Churchmen and Ritualists, but of a majority of the clergy, are thus defined:—

> Christ has given power to His Church to interpret and to declare the truth.
>
> The Church consists of an episcopate and priesthood, divinely appointed and endowed in apostolical succession to teach and minister to the laity.
>
> The episcopate and priesthood have the right to give and to refuse the sacraments of the Church, and to communicate or excommunicate, to ordain or to depose. This Church, so divinely appointed and apostolically succeeding, is the only true Church of Christ, outside of which is no salvation.
>
> The sacraments administered by the priests are essential to salvation.
>
> And lastly, this Church, with all these powers and rights, is entitled to demand of the State to be supported, aided, upheld by endowments from the resources of the commonwealth and the patronage of the Government.

It is evident that these claims, whether true or false, are incompatible with the conditions of our existing Government. They would be so if nine-tenths of the community accepted them as true. What, when the majority of the people of the United Kingdom utterly abjure them? Their significance and danger are illustrated by a quotation from Dr. Arnold. A Church with such principles—which might be despised when put forth by an unendowed and unestablished Roman hierarchy—is not a form of Christianity which, whether on policy or expediency, a popular Government can maintain as a State institution, either with justice to the people or advantage to Christianity, which if it is to be patronised by a free Government can only be done in a form consistent with the promotion of unity, peace, and concord among the community. In face of the arrogant pretensions of Churchmen, the grounds of their demands must be candidly analysed. To a consistent Churchman, not to be a member of the Church of England is to be a "schismatic," which in many a parish carries with it, not alone a religious exclusion, but social and civil disabilities. What that means is thus defined:—

> If you are a known Dissenter, unbaptized by the holy hands of a priest, you may not legally partake of Christ's communion, however conspicuous your holiness and morality. If your child is unbaptized by such a priest, one of these "servants of the State" may refuse him burial among the graves of your household, though your family may have been distinguished by generations of an earnest and consistent piety. Should your friends, when you are dead, not care that you should be buried by a man whose assumptions and doctrines you repudiated in your lifetime, and with a service containing statements of dogmas which you utterly denied, this clerical civil servant arrogates the right to refuse your body a resting-place in the old family grave. Should you desire, as a citizen, to take your part in the local duties of a guardian of the poor, or the management of a school board, this public official comes out as an electioneering agent, to organise against you all those whom his spiritual ascendancy and social position enable him to influence, in order that in secular affairs there may be a clerical preponderance. Were you a poor farm-labourer with a leaning to Methodism, which had at least awakened your mind to religious ideas, you would

have found, in nine cases out of ten, that the brand of "schism" was placed upon you; and this servant of the State, to whose sympathy and aid you are commended by Mr. Forster, would have used against you all the forces placed in his hand by his exceptional position, to be employed, not for his sect, but for every one in his parish. For, according to Mr. Matthew Arnold, every one is legally a member of the Church of England. The letter written by the Bishop of Rochester to a clergyman who was supposed to have attended a workman's meeting, for a secular purpose, held in a Primitive Methodist Chapel, is too characteristic of the impracticable spirit of episcopal Christianity.

And this impracticable and repellent spirit grows and hardens as Liberal ideas advance outside the Church. It increases the spirit of obstruction to political as well as religious reforms, and has become absolutely incompatible with the conditions, rights, feelings, and relations of modern society, under a free Government. It may be said that the followers of Mr. Tooth and Mr. Mackonochie are comparatively few, and that there is no chance that their claims will ever be practically admitted. But Liberalism is bound to see that they shall be made practically impossible, which cannot be when a large, able, influential body of the clergy put forth these propositions, and are acquiring further the adhesion of increasing numbers of the laity. In relation to universal Christendom the Church of England may be a small force, and the pretensions of its clerics merely a ludicrous accident. But if these claims are less haughty and extensive than those of the Church of the Roman hierarchy, the influence of the example must be all the more effective. Mr. Jenkins thus sums up this branch of his argument:—

1. That the Church of England, originally a modified development of Hierarchism, is becoming increasingly incompatible with modern ideas and with free political government.

2. For, that a change is going on within itself, and with startling rapidity, in the direction of intensifying the power of Hierarchism; and that this is a menace to the interests of the State.

3. That Liberalism is bound to demand the emancipation of a free State from the enforced support and patronage of an institution which is not consistent with the principles of our polity, which works a real injustice, and may fairly be considered as a standing hindrance to Liberal development.

4. Lastly, that even were there any imaginable grounds of the propriety of maintaining a religious establishment under a free constitution, the Christianity now generally taught by the Church of England is essentially out of harmony with the general views and principles of Christianity held by the majority of the people of these realms, and that therefore its maintenance as a State institution is a national error and injustice.

The writer then turns to the Church of Scotland, whose assumptions are founded on the idea of a Church of Christ continued, not by apostolical succession, but by the separate accession of the Spirit of God, and consisting not alone of a clergy with peculiar powers, but of clergy and laity on an equal footing—in fact, the antipodes of Laudism. Yet the Scottish Churchman defends the prelatical English Establishment, and the English sacerdotal the Presbyterian democracy of Scotland. Both cannot be right. That they equally maintain and lay claim to the support of the Government is an evidence how faintly a real and vital Christianity tinges the morality of State-paid and State-patronised bodies. Mr. Jenkins, after showing that the constitution of the Scotch Church is less inimical to Liberal ideas and a free Government than that of the Anglican Church, proceeds to examine the position taken up by the Duke of Argyll, a Liberal peer who voted for disestablishment in Ireland. His Grace declines to argue the question of the two Establishments on abstract grounds, but maintains that the maintenance of ancient national endowments in connection with a church, if that church is doing effective work, involves no injustice to those who may have become Dissenters. But the apology is not a political, but a religious one. The Irish Church had national and ancient endowments. The duke still clings to the paternal government theory, which is ridiculous under a popular form of government. And, in respect to his second argument—as to the good use made of the ancient endowments—there are other and more active religious communities, not established by the State, that are doing as good, and can do as increasingly good, work as the Establishment, and at their own expense. Is the maintenance of a minority by national aid "no injustice" to the majority which does its work without that aid? As a statesman, the duke, having entered upon the controversy, is bound to prove, not that an ancient Establishment is an actively beneficial institution for religious purposes, but upon what grounds he can defend its perpetuation as a Government mission in face of the altered circumstances of the nation under the constitution. His argument involves the absurdity that no amount of secession from the Church, and no extent of change in the constitution of the State, will render the maintenance of the institution "an injustice." The Duke of Argyll contends that by the abolition of patronage the Church of Scotland has been put in the right, and is compatible with the ideas and doctrines of the seceders. Mr. Jenkins denies that by this act the Established Church of Scotland has become a less unfair, injurious, and unpolitic institution:—

In the first place, obviously that removal cannot further recommend it to the Anglicans and Roman Catholics and Agnostics of Scotland. And secondly, I should like to know what difference it makes to the excluded Churches, in relation to the rights of equality, whether the ministers of the Establishment are presented by a congregational caucus or an "undooted pautron"? In both cases the result is the same thing, a State-established and State-endowed clergyman—a man vested with privileges by the State in virtue of his belonging to a particular sect. The duke is angry with the Free Church and the "agitators" for not recognising that a boon has been conferred upon them, because an institution which they repudiate as, in the existing political state of Scotland and from its own position, irreconcilable with justice, has been improved in a matter of detail! This is a curious argument with Free-Churchmen, who contend that the State had no right to legislate in the matter either one way or the other, because it was exclusively a subject for the determination of the Church.

It is shown that the rights conferred by the Act in question on the several congregations have been taken from the people of the whole parish. Yet this is called justice and reform! And the Free Churchmen of Scotland have a right to be indignant that, after their sacrifices, their splendid devotion, the State should partially come round to the opinions for which they stood out, but should apply them in behalf of their rivals, and for the express purpose of counteracting their own distinguished success. In conclusion, Mr. Jenkins thus sums up his argument:—

Liberalism can only have one duty in regard to these two State institutions, namely, to sweep them away. They are surprisingly different, but, as State institutions, they are equally pernicious. The good they do is poisoned by the State connection, for it springs out of a daily injustice. Their inconsistency with each other confutes their mutual supporters. Of the two, the English Church is the least defensible, the most inequitable. As we have seen, its inherent constitution and principles are anti-liberal. The Liberals within it, hearty and true as many of them are, live there under perpetual protest. Dr. Arnold years ago, with clear perception and fearless candour, recognised this unconciliatory tendency of the Church towards the age in which it existed. He said: "To revise Christ's Church is to expel *the anti-Christ of priesthood*, and to restore its disfranchised members, the laity, to the discharge of their proper duties. . . . . and all who value the inestimable blessings of Christ's Church should labour in arousing the laity to a sense of their great share in them. In particular, that discipline which is one of the greatest of those blessings, never can, and indeed never ought, to be bestowed, till the Church resumes its lawful authority, and puts an end to the usurpation of its power by the clergy."

The laity will never successfully shake the clerical power till it is separated from the support of the State, and depends wholly on their voluntary assent and subscriptions. The social and political position of the Church of England keeps many men in conformity who detest the doctrines of their clergy. To that we outside citizens are wholly careless and indifferent. It appears, however, that not only are we wronged by the favouritism of the State to this episcopal sect, but that its constitution and claims positively incapacitate it from assuming the religious mission of a liberal government. To maintain it any longer is as fatuous a policy as if a father and mother were to pay a tutor to teach their son filial disobedience, and the right of children to control and defy their parents. The Scotch Church, more liberal in its constitution, is of the same creed and organisation as the Churches without it; but they are living protests against its privilege. The further the State releases it from control, the more unrighteous becomes its enjoyment of special privilege and endowment. And the people of that Church, if their professions of principle are anything more than windy words—and I believe they are—must call to mind that with their own Establishment they are buttressing the dangerous and enormous prelatical power of the south. If these two Churches continue to sustain each other much longer, the world will have an irrefutable demonstration that State-paid Christianity is not Christianity at all.

THE FAMINE IN CHINA.

The work of sending relief to the sufferers by famine in China has now reached the point when the enduring character of popular benevolence is put to the test. There is a large number of persons who will give generously on the impulse of the moment to any case of genuine distress which appeals with sufficient power to their imagination; but there are comparatively few who have the perseverance to continue their support to the cause they have espoused until it no longer needs help, or who, if they have only a little to give, will so time their gift that it shall come in when it is most needed—*i.e.*, when the first flow of public sympathy is over. The tales of wretchedness and misery which for the last few months have come from China have through very repetition lost their power to appeal to the imagination and to kindle feelings of compassion and sympathy. But although this is so, the wretchedness and misery have not ceased.

The most recent news from China shows that the distress which has lasted for so long is still almost severe as ever. It is true that a recent telegram from China holds out the hope that at the end of the summer a harvest will be gathered in which will provide for the wants of the people during next winter. But in the meantime the sufferings of the Chinese continue unabated, and if the missionaries, who up to the present time have been the almoners of English charity, are not supplied with further contributions, it will be absolutely necessary for them to abandon their work in the middle—that is, to leave the poor, whom they have hitherto supported, to perish after all; like sailors, who having come safely through the perils of a long and dangerous voyage are at last wrecked in sight of shore.

The following extracts from a private letter, addressed by the Rev. Jonathan Lees, of the London Missionary Society at Tientsin, to the Rev. William Muirhead, Hon. Sec. to the China Famine Fund in Shanghai, will show with what feelings of disappointment and sorrow the various missionaries who have been engaged in carrying on this system of relief, would abandon their work before it was complete. The letter from which we quote was forwarded by Mr. Muirhead to a friend in England by the latest mail from China. Mr. Lees writes:—

"There is no lack of workers. Messrs. Barradale, Stanley, Smith, Porter, Pyke, Lowry, and myself have all done something already, and there are others who are ready to do more—in short to act as efficiently as we can as the willing almoners of the aid so nobly furnished. My own impression is that you and your colleagues are now doing what will one day be recognised as among the greatest work of your lives, and opening the way for the Gospel to win wonderful triumphs when these trials are past. . . . Though we may be able really to save comparatively few lives, the little we can do will tell mightily in our favour bye-and-by. In some moods one is disposed to rebel against being drawn off from direct evangelistic effort when such effort seems specially promising, but when life is at stake we may well put ordinary work aside for awhile, and in the long run there will be not only no loss but great gain. Anyhow, we are sure that such a course is right, and we may well leave the results with God."

Mr. Lees speaks only of the work in the neighbourhood of Tientsin. Other missionaries connected with other societies have been carrying on a similar work in more remote districts, and there can be little doubt that their efforts will lead to equally happy results with those effected in the locality in which Mr. Lees resides.

The total amount of contributions raised in England for the sufferers by famine up to the present time is rather more than £25,000. This sum, however, has been considerably augmented by the contributions of European and American residents in the East. It will be remembered that last February the Chinese Ambassador in England wrote to the *Times* expressing his appreciation of the efforts that were being made to benefit his fellow countrymen. From the newspapers published in China we learn that several officials of high position in China itself have expressed themselves in a similar way. We can only hope that they may have as much cause to admire their benefactors' patient *continuance* in well-doing as to admire the *promptness* with which the first appeals to England for help were responded to.

SCOTTISH CHURCH NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

I telegraphed to you that on the second count of the doctrinal charge Professor Smith had been condemned by a majority of 23. The next division was in his favour. This had reference to his views of Inspiration. Upon this he gave such explanations from the bar that by a vote of 280 to 140 they were accepted as satisfactory. There still remained five more counts; but, on the ground that there was no time thoroughly to discuss them, the Dissents and Complaints were abandoned, and the judgment of the Presbytery, clearing the Professor of heresy, was adopted as the judgment of the Assembly. The remaining general charges had still to be taken up—the one of promulgating opinions of a dangerous and unsettling tendency, and of using language so rash and unguarded as to be mischievous. On all hands it was allowed that somewhere in these counts there was matter which might legitimately be made the basis of a libel; but it was also universally felt that the charges were badly drawn, and the only question which came to be seriously considered was how best to "amend" the libel as to make it fit to be dealt with judicially. Again Sir H. Moncrieff and Dr. Rainy took opposite sides. But the House so plainly preferred Dr. Rainy's method, that Sir Henry wisely withdrew

his motion in its favour, and the judgment thus became unanimous. The case now stands thus:—The charges have been reduced in number to two, and these, having been found relevant, will be discussed with a view to probation or otherwise by the Presbytery. Professor Smith is accused (1) of teaching unorthodox views of the Pentateuch, and (2) of promulgating his speculations in a way fitted needlessly to shake the faith of his students and others. Until this matter is disposed of, his suspension from professorial work will continue; and unless he himself grows weary of the warfare and resigns, the whole case is sure to come up again in some shape at the next General Assembly.

But Mr. Smith is not the only minister in the Free Church who is suspected of heresy. Dr. Marcus Dods has also been running the gauntlet of the courts on account of a sermon of his which professed to give for the benefit of sceptics a reasonable view of the inspiration and Divine authority of Holy Scripture. Towards him, however, the feeling seems much more kindly than toward Professor Smith. The one is an impulsive, impressionable man, who is very apt to be influenced by any fresh and striking book he may read, and who is accustomed to give to his people on the succeeding Sabbath the benefit or otherwise of anything that happens to have interested him through the week. The other is a trained theologian and critic, whose very business it is to look all round the subjects he discusses with the utmost deliberation, and who is under no temptation to give forth to a congregation constantly waiting to be taught whatever opinions he may happen to have at any particular moment. Mr. Dods, it is argued, may be a heretic by mistake and in ignorance. Mr. Smith goes forward with his eyes open, and well knowing whither he is going. Looking at the matter in this light, it was a great relief to many that a way was found to put an end to the Dods case without anything more serious than an admonition. The sermon was withdrawn from circulation, and the opinions in it were disclaimed, and a very broad hint was given to the author that if he went in the same line again a worse thing might befall him.

These cases have occupied an unconscionable amount of time—almost three full days—and they have taken the very heart and soul to a great extent out of the Assembly. Nevertheless there were other proceedings which were of general interest.

For example, there was the annual disestablishment debate, which Dr. Adam moved on the Liberal side in a very telling speech. Dr. Begg, as usual, proposed the direct contrary to it, and Sir H. Moncrieff posed in his accustomed attitude of facing both ways. He is for a separation of the existing connection between Church and State, but he does not wish to take any step forward in that direction, because he is not yet prepared to say what ought to come after. In the division Dr. Begg mustered 50 less than last year, Sir Henry 84, and Dr. Adam the remainder, giving him a clear majority of 270. There is no mistaking the certainty of that sound.

It looks as if the debate in Glasgow had produced a sensation in Edinburgh. Next day the Established Assembly had occasion to refer to the Churches outside its pale in connection with the report of a committee on Union; and the tremendous display of bunting which took place can be accounted for only by the theory that the reverend court had been seriously disturbed by the reverberation of the guns from the West. One after another spoke in the most tetchy way of the Free Church; and, although it was again and again asseverated that the Establishment was never more strong, and never more certain to destroy all its enemies, yet it was easy to see through all this big talk a secret anxiety about the future. The courage professed was obviously of the Dutch sort. Not so long ago the word went round that the Kirk was to maintain a dignified silence and to look with a bland contempt upon all Liberationist movements. But it won't do. The danger is too real to be winked at, and hence the ridiculous sputter which broke out in the Supreme Court. This is the worst feature in our ecclesiastical situation. The existence of an Establishment at the present day in Scotland is a perpetual source of worry and contention. In its interests men lose all their Christian charity and allow themselves to speak very unadvisedly with their lips. The consequence is that fresh stones are thrown from the outside; and as there is plenty of glass in the State Church windows the crash is considerable.

And what makes it all the more irritating is that the cause of Christ at home and abroad would obviously suffer nothing whatever if the Establishment were to go down to-morrow. The income of the Free Church this year is 575,718*l.*, being 30,000*l.* above what it was last year, while the Established Church, with all its vaunted numbers of wealth had only raised 370,000*l.*, or the immense sum of 200,000*l.* less than the neighbour it tries hard to despise. There is not a doubt that if the three Churches which may be said to divide Scotland between them were only left to their own resources, the religious wants of the whole people would be more effectually supplied than they are at present, and more, than that, *the necessities of the heathen would be far more adequately recognised.* The foreign missions of the Established Church are on a very small scale indeed, and yet the complaint is made this year of a sadly diminished income; while the churches which are weighted with the support of their home ministry, not only provide that support in a wonderfully liberal way, but carry on enterprises abroad on a scale of magnitude which is, I always think, very remarkable. For the sustentation of its ministry the Free Church has contributed to the Central Fund 177,659*l.*, and 99,680*l.* for missions and education. The average income of by far the largest proportion of Free Church ministers is considerably above 200*l.* a year, with a manse, and it sustains over a thousand of them.

I don't think it is likely the Free Church Assembly will soon again hold its sittings in Glasgow. Not that it has any just cause of complaint to make against the inhabitants of that city. On the contrary, their kindness has been great, and their hospitality boundless. But for a Judicial Court to meet in a hall capable of holding 3,500 people, and generally filled at that, is too much of a good thing. It will, therefore, next year go back to its own place in Edinburgh. Nevertheless, the meetings have done manifest good in the West, and that will, I have no doubt, remain.

VICTORIA (PHILOSOPHICAL) INSTITUTE. — The annual meeting of this institute was held on Friday at the house of the Society of Arts, the president, the Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., in the chair. The honorary secretary, Captain F. Petrie, read the twelfth annual report, from which it appeared that the number of members steadily continued to increase, the total number being now 756. A considerable number of those who had joined during the year were American and Colonial members, and the extension of the society's influence abroad, especially in America and the Colonies, had been marked; and the members were congratulated upon the fact that such support added greatly to the efficiency with which the society's objects were carried out. The papers already read had been "some purely scientific, others took up those questions of science or philosophy which bear upon the truths revealed in Scripture,—these latter were taken up on account of the assaults made in the name of science or philosophy upon revelation, and with a view to elucidating the truth, and getting rid of such philosophic or scientific theories as prove baseless. Theological questions, being naturally outside the institute's objects, were left for other societies and ministers of religion." The address was delivered by Principal Rigg, D.D., and contained a review of various systems of philosophy now popular. Among the speakers were the Earl of Harrowby, K.G., the Earl Nelson, C. Brooke, Esq., F.R.S., and others. Refreshments were afterwards served in the museum.

THE JUBILEE SINGERS IN GERMANY.—A correspondent of the *Record* at Stuttgart writes:—The Jubilee Singers have just finished the first part of their tour, which they commenced last November. The only town in which they have given concerts outside Germany during that time is Prague, in Bohemia, where they were very enthusiastically received. They are at present in Switzerland, where they will remain till about the end of May, when they will return to Germany for the month of June. It may be that early in July they will give a few concerts in Paris, and then probably return by Havre direct to America. The other countries of Europe, such as Austria, Russia, the North of Europe, and perhaps Italy, would still remain, if necessary, for a later visit. It is now more than three years since they sailed the second time (May 15, 1875), from America for Europe, and it is no wonder if the thought of soon returning should be somewhat attractive. The unsettled state of trade, which affects so many middle-class business men, prevents the undertaking from being so successful financially as it otherwise might be. Still it is a real success, and far beyond anything that could have been expected. In all the German capitals where concerts have been held, members of the reigning family or court have been present. The newspapers have spoken in favour of the singing, and in some cases have highly praised it. The commencement made at Berlin in November, and the encouragement given by the Crown Prince and Crown Princess, as well as by the Emperor and Empress, and many leading men in the capital of Germany, opened up the way, no doubt, for the singers throughout the principal towns of the country.

Literature.

"THE SUPERNATURAL IN NATURE."*

This book, we are told by its author, does "not deal with the controversies amongst believers, nor with scepticism in some of its rationalistic doubts, but with those who deny Supernaturalism, who refuse to believe in a personal God—our Creator, our Preserver, our Father." The method of argument employed is also stated by the writer: "While employing physical and metaphysical arguments against the Materialist, we contend for a revelation in an inspired record as an essential bulwark against error, and the only infallible guide to truth; as the corrective of scientific generalisations which would banish God from the world, and as the teacher of moral and spiritual laws which are co-ordinate with and analogous to those physical laws which a scientific generalisation has revealed." The last sentence shows that verified and not mere speculative science is recognised as sharing in the dignity and divinity of Revelation. If there be at present any antagonism between it and Scripture, it is due, the author believes, either to our false views of one or both. One aim of this work is to show how substantial is the agreement that exists "between truly scientific conclusions and Holy Writ."

These quotations indicate the author's method as well as his purpose. Believing in the substantial agreement of "truly scientific conclusions and Holy Writ," his work is almost entirely expository, exhibiting side by side the essential meaning of Scripture and the verified, universally-acknowledged, truths of science. For the latter he is not alone responsible, but has had the advantage of scientific assistance and revision. An attempt of this kind must obviously be the work of many years, and carried, as it should be, into very minute details, would require many such volumes as this before us. The author has therefore confined himself to one portion of Scripture (the first chapter of Genesis), but one in which are involved all the most difficult problems of natural science. He would have made a better book had he also confined himself to a simple and lucid statement of his scientific truths. He uses too many words, quotes his opponents that he may have the pleasure of making some sarcastic or humorous comment upon their replies. This is done so repeatedly that the reader grows tired with the interruption, and is not always able to find the fun. Some of the mock paraphrases of Mr. Herbert Spencer's generalisations remind us of Mr. Kirkman's "Philosophy without Assumptions," but its caustic wit is not here. The exposition of the Scripture records is very interesting as a scholarly and reverent handling of a confessedly difficult subject, and will be found not without value to every student of the Bible. Large modifications in the received meanings of words and phrases have to be made, especially in the oft-disputed "days" of creation. The writer admits that the time, on the day theory, is inadequate to the requirements of modern science, but adds that "in an apparent vision or narrative, or dream; or by whatever means we possess, the memorial of creation, whether as picture for the seer to look on, or as history for the prophet to write, it is certain that the whole representation, if Divine, would, in its very nature, transcend physical science. It must be borne in mind that the Hebrew language has no scientific terms, so that, whether dealing with science or prophecy, symbols must be used. It also seems natural that the word day should be used. What so natural as the use of a word which includes the work of man, for containing and describing the work of God, and for a symbolical measure of time?" The work of each day, whatever period of time it represents, is carefully examined in the light of Scripture and science, and a chapter added on the comparison of the two Divine accounts, and of the recently-discovered Chaldean account. It is due to the author to acknowledge the thoroughness and completeness of his scientific summary; he has neglected nothing, and he has suppressed nothing, however it may superficially tell against himself. Apart from the polemic aim of the book, it is full of interest as a collection of scientific facts bearing upon the most momentous interests of man's life here and hereafter.

These become of greater importance as we pass from the physical creation to man, his origin, nature, personality, and spiritual life. Of the speciality of human life we are told, "human nature, in its present form, is only

* *The Supernatural in Nature.* A Verification by Free Use of Science. (London: C. Kegan Paul and Co.)

the rudimentary stage of an extended and more desirable existence. The future lies so involved in our bodily and mental organisation that we discern traces within our inner man. This inner man makes us somewhat like those poets of the grander and more comprehensive genius, who have in them two separate men—the ideal and practical. There is something in our mental and moral history which far surpasses whatsoever may be accounted analogous in the guiding instinct and material changes of the body, and exceeds everything that any combination of material forces can produce." The author then proceeds to set against this the mechanical and chemical views of the brain and thought, of the nerves and sensations, so common at the present time, and shows how inadequate they are to account for the whole mental and moral phenomena of man's special life.

In the final chapter, or study, as the several sections are called, the author resumes his whole argument, and concludes with a defence of Christianity as the highest result of revelation. He contends that nature is in itself a splendid miracle, and, therefore, that what we term the supernatural is both in nature as well as above it. The demonstration of the latter is thus stated:—

The highest act of creation is to produce free beings; we may be sure that a perfect God will perform perfect work, and create these free beings. They must be finite beings; for everything created is so of necessity. These finite beings must, in the roll of infinite duration, be liable to misuse their freedom; otherwise they are not free. This freedom of action, both connected and disconnected with usual law, inevitably brings in new elements modifying law, requiring new procedure, and necessitating special operations of wisdom and power. These special operations are miracles, are actualities to meet necessities, and not out of, but within the Divine plan, not marks of weakness or of short-sightedness, but undeniable proof that omnipotence and omniscience control all existence; guiding the free actions of intelligent, moral, responsible creatures, not in such manner as coerces, but by exercise of that suasion which is capable of producing those pure motives which result in right conduct as the fruit of choice and goodwill.

From this we pass to the still more profoundly difficult subject of the Divine Personality as opposed to pantheism. The subject is treated with considerable power and with abundance of illustrations, but it is necessarily metaphysical and conjectural. A far more practical and manageable subject is that with which the book concludes, *i.e.*, "The Kingdom of God," regarded as God's Providence and Spiritual Rule amongst men. The author seeks to show, first, that "religion is not an evolution"; next, that "Scripture is not an evolution"; and that Christianity is not an outgrowth of human nature, but is a veritable result of an actual revelation. There are in this chapter some opinions to which the author appears to attach importance, but with which we have no agreement. The section headed "The Presence of Spirits with Men" seems to us to lead to all the vagaries of modern spiritualism, and to rob religion of its essentially spiritual character. Too much evidential value is placed upon the literal truth of Old Testament Messianic passages. Of these we are told there are one hundred and nine, and that "verification of the whole, even to demonstration, may be obtained by any candid intelligent mind who reverently searches Scripture to discover those continuous lines of thought, of prophecy, of doctrine, of morals, of revelation, which run through the whole, making it one piece; the entire pattern of which was evidently foreseen from the beginning." Students of Scripture will scarcely endorse a passage so strongly assertive as this, which tends by its strength to mislead and to disappoint the inquirer. We might, by the following quotation, seem to make the author reply to himself; but our object is quite other than that. We conclude with the following lines, because they express the essential power and enduring glory of Christianity. It "alone has the power of an endless life. At those moments in history, when men have predicted the end, its youth has been renewed; and at this very time, when its dissolution is confidently foretold, it is arming itself for new victories, and is going forth to conquer the world. The Kingdom of God thus contains in itself the evidence that it is the Kingdom of God; and supernaturalism is vindicated not by the arguments of its defenders, but by its own continual and ever-growing power over men."

*THE VOYAGE TO THE POLAR SEA.**

As a story of adventure and suffering, Sir George Nares's book hardly equals that of Lieut. Payer, of the Austrian expedition, which, it will be remembered, was for two complete winters imprisoned in the ice, and returned after three years' absence, the ships having been deserted and the greater part of the home journey made in sledges and boats. But something is doubtless due to the form. Sir George Nares kept a diary, which he has chiefly used in this book; and hence it may be said that what is gained in an instructive and scientific point of view is largely lost in popular effect and power. The literature of the expedition will not, however, be exhausted by Captain Nares's book, and this desideratum may yet be largely supplied. If the results of the voyage may be regarded as having established the impracticability of reaching the North Pole—at all events, by way of Smith's Sound—so much has been added to the stock of knowledge that the advantage of Polar exploration may be regarded as demonstrated. Never, perhaps, was an expedition more thoroughly equipped with all that science and money could command. When we think of what has been done by Dundee whalers in extending the area explored and marked out, we are struck with profound wonder at so great results gained with a machinery so slight, and, at the same time, with the idea of an impenetrable and unconquerable grandeur in the icy vastnesses of the Polar region against which it is to be feared that no might of man or wealth of scientific appliances may prevail. We think of that memorable voyage in which Captain Markham (bound as a working sailor at the nominal pay of a ½d a month) extended his experiences, and so far fitted himself for his sledging leadership in which he so approved himself; and of Sherard Osborne and his daring endeavours to push ahead of former explorers. Sir George Nares has been careful to keep clear of all comparisons and controversies, though of course it was unavoidable that some reference should be made to that lime-juice controversy of which we heard a good deal soon after the return of the expedition. It would appear that Sir George was only working in the traditions of former commanders in refraining from sending out lime-juice to his sledging parties, and gives what appear strong reasons for the course he took. He is defended, too, by Admiral Richards and other experienced Polar navigators. It does seem somewhat surprising, however, that the men themselves carried some small store of lime-juice with them, which it would appear they were able, though with some effort, to dissolve and use. These, however, are points on which men of large experience are not of one mind, and our opinion on it can be of no value.

It will be remembered that the Alert and Discovery parted company near to the Bay known as Lady Franklin's Sound. There the Discovery was to winter, having what probably its crew regarded as the secondary duty of sending out sledging parties to explore the coast of Grinnel Land; while the Alert went forward by Smith's Sound and Robeson Channel into the yet unexplored and unknown regions. Of the many delays and difficulties met with, of the many sledge expeditions undertaken to investigate the coast lines here and there, we cannot afford the space to speak; suffice it to say that the record attests great bravery and endurance in journeys that had not the *éclat* of that last one under Commander Markham. This gives a faint idea of the work on a sledge journey near Cape Joseph Henry:—

The sledge crews had all experienced very hard work, occasioned by the thin state of the new ice having forced them to travel along the land, to follow every indentation of the shore, and to haul the sledges across the hills at the back of the precipitous points. The fact that the travellers continued their advance at all under these circumstances will be appreciated by Arctic explorers.

This further remark is made on a later sledge journey, but applies to many others:—

Dogs are not of much use when the snow becomes more than twelve inches deep: they are frightened and unable to fairly exert their powers. On smooth floes they are very rapid, but where men have to lend a hand, the unanimity of action which prevails in a man-sledge is lost, and by no means could we get our dogs to haul when we did. This makes the labour much greater, and it is not agreeable to find, on looking round after a hard struggle to get the sledge ahead, that some of the dogs are not hauling, and the others helping them; and yet ordinarily they do a great deal of work, and if much may be said against them a great deal may be said for them.

The dogs are indeed a valuable part of the community in these regions; and very touching are some of the references to them—of their sufferings, their prostration under a disease something like rabies, yet differing from it in important points, falling down the ice-slopes into the sea for want of the power for self-guidance, and so on. Here, as in other accounts of Polar adventure, the loss of the dogs forms a truly pathetic element, and Sir George Nares is never guilty of a word too much in their case, which only adds to the effect. After a run of over five miles on the ice the dogs were apt to get incapable through the snow clogging between the toes and biting into the flesh, causing intense pain. The cases of frost-bite and of snow-blindness in the men, too, were numerous, especially as they advanced into the more distant latitudes. One of the most peculiar dangers of the Polar regions arises from the mists and the peculiar effects and illusions of the eye they produce:—

Misty weather enables us to realise how very dependent we are on shadow, whether cast by moonlight or sunlight. When shadows are prevented forming, the snow tints are so similar and the lights so blended that there is an anxious uncertainty attending each step, similar to that experienced when walking in the dark, and it is impossible to be sure whether the next step will not lead on straightforward on the level directly against an obstacle or headlong over a precipice. In this manner Rawson stepped deliberately into a chasm some ten feet in depth during his last journey. In the evening the mist cleared off; we could then read the newspaper with ease by the light of the full moon; the shadow of the ship showed every rope and spar distinctly on the pure snow ground.

As we have hinted, the record of the work from day to day is relieved by reference to amusements and various devices to maintain the good spirits which are so essential to success in such an enterprise. While the men are busy building snowhouses, little plays are acted in the theatre; Commander Markham, in his intervals of rest from sledging, becomes for the nonce "A Wizard of the North," to the delightful surprise of his companions, from whom he had kept his education and attainments in that line a profound secret; and the Rev. Mr. Bullen indites some clever poems and songs on passing events, which are received with great gusto. The record is relieved also by valuable scientific observations, of which this is one:—

The rapid elevation of the shores of Grinnell Land illustrates in a remarkable degree how powerful is the agency of the heavy Polar ice in raising banks of mud and gravel in lines parallel with the coast. Wherever points of land stretch seaward into water of moderate depth, lines of grounded floebergs mark very distinctly where they and their predecessors have pushed up ridges on the bottom as they were forced on shore. Where two points are near neighbours, the banks continue to increase with the elevation of the land, and eventually produce a bar which extends from point to point, and forms a sheltered bay, into which the heavy Polar ice can no longer be forced. Year after year the mountain torrents, charged with mud and *débris*, continue to fill up this protected bay, which from continuous deviation of the land, become at last converted into a lake. In course of time, after the lake has become silted up, the ancient bar is cut through, and the torrents again scoop out the accumulated material, depositing it afresh in a similar manner at a lower level.

One of the great difficulties was in keeping up correspondence with the Discovery, and no little skill and endurance were shown in effecting that; but all the adventures of the expedition are of course thrown into the shade by the narrative of the great sledging expedition of seventy days under Markham and Parr, the details of which were discussed so fully in the newspapers on the return of the expedition. Their purpose was to force their way northward over the ice, starting off from the land near Cape Joseph Henry; three sledge crews, under the command of Dr. Moss and Mr. George White, accompanying them as far as their provisions would allow. Each man dragged a weight of between 230lb. and 240lb.

Some idea of the amenities of sledging in such an expedition may be formed from this account of the reaching of Markham by the relief party that had been sent out:—

On my first meeting them Markham and five men were dragging two sledges, three hands at each, each sledge being freighted with two invalids and as much of the tent furniture as was requisite to keep them warm and to form as comfortable a couch as the circumstances and the rough road permitted. Lying on the top of the third sledge, which was laden with the rest of the baggage and the provisions, and left about half-a-mile in the rear, was a fifth invalid.

Struggling along over the uneven, snow-covered ice as best they could were four other men whose limbs becoming daily more cramped, foretold that they must soon succumb; they were gallantly holding out to the last in order not to increase by their weight a moment sooner than could be avoided the already heavy loads being dragged by their very slightly stronger companions.

These poor fellows were in the habit of starting off each morning before the main party, knowing that if they experienced a bad fall, or came to an unusually deep snowdrift, they could not recover themselves without help. Frequently the sledge-party overtook them lying helpless on the ice, but once raised on their legs, with a smile and some happy cheerful expression again they would start on their painful and weary journey.

With the exception of Markham, who dragged to the very last, and in addition had to pioneer a way for the sledges before the daily start, the others remaining on the drag-ropes were in a great measure dependent on the leaders, John Radmore and Thomas Jolliffe. Although these two men were the most vigorous of the sledge crews they were greatly enfeebled, yet rather than resign the post of honour as leaders, which entailed the extra labour of treading down a pathway through the snow, they journeyed along, supporting each other arm-in-arm, and by keeping the drag rope taut afforde

* *Narrative of a Voyage to the Polar Sea during 1875-6, in H.M. Ships Alert and Discovery.* By Capt. Sir G. S. NARES, R.N., K.C.B., F.R.S., Commander of the Expedition. With Notes on the Natural History, Edited by H. W. FIELDEN, F.G.S., F.R.G.S., &c., Naturalist to the Expedition. In Two Vols. (Sampson Low, Marston, and Co.)

a means of support for their more disabled companions in the rear.

It was by such labour and suffering as this that Markham attained his highest point of Arctic exploration, 83° 20′ 26″ N. The following is his reflection when compelled to admit to himself the necessity of returning to the ship:—

After very serious consideration, I have arrived at the conclusion, though sorely against my inclination, that this must be our most northern camp. With five out of our little force totally prostrate, and four others exhibiting decided symptoms of the same complaint, it would be folly to persist in pushing on. In addition to which the greater half of our provisions have been expended. To-morrow will be our fortieth day out; only thirty-one days' full allowance of provisions remain, so that prudence and discretion unite against our own desire of advancing, and counsel a return. A complete rest to the invalids of a couple of days may be productive of much good, during which time we may be usefully engaged in making observations in various interesting matters. With this we must be content, having failed so lamentably in attaining a high northern latitude. It is a bitter ending to all our aspirations.

The scientific chapters at the close of the work are very clear and very full, the illustrations, mostly from photographs, are very striking, and fitted to convey a most graphic idea of the "grandeurs" of that awful realm; and, on the whole, though there is no effort at eloquent description or at effective writing, it must be admitted that this forms a worthy memorial of one of the most daring endeavours yet made to extend our knowledge of that part of the world, where, alas! some of the most resolute and indomitable pioneers have fallen victims!

*D'AUBIGNE'S "HISTORY OF THE REFORMATION."**

In a Preface to this last volume of a work which, in spite of some faults of onesidedness and hasty conclusion, is entitled to a place in the first rank, we are made acquainted with some facts in reference to D'Aubigné and his methods of work, which are exceedingly interesting. D'Aubigné, who was born at Geneva in 1794, was descended from a French Protestant family, who had been driven from France by the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes. He formed his resolution to write the History of the Reformation at a very early age, and it may be said that all his later studies, and most of his journeys, were undertaken with a direct reference to it. Immediately after his ordination to the ministry, in 1807, he visited Germany. In that year the third centenary of Luther's revolt against the Papacy was celebrated. D'Aubigné was among the crowds who then made a pilgrimage to the Wartburg to look on the scenes where the great Reformer found a temporary rest after his trying efforts at the Diet of Worms. It was then that the conception of the work dawned on his mind, and in his diary a few weeks afterwards he records his resolution at once to begin the collection of materials. His method was systematic and laborious, furnishing another illustration of the fact that a great and popular book is not generally what is called "easy writing." First, he would make a summary study of an important period and rapidly sketch its history; next, he would refer to the original sources, collecting around him all the documents which he could discover, and sometimes making a long journey for the purpose of consulting a manuscript preserved in some library. He would then plunge again into his theme, familiarising himself thoroughly with its form and its colour, so as to make it real and present to his mind, and see it as it were with his own eyes. And, finally, he would rewrite the story, completing and giving life to his narratives, and depicting the scenes for the reader as he had already done for himself. A third, and even a fourth recasting, was not seldom undertaken before the author was satisfied, so vast and so complex was that spiritual movement, which he had undertaken to describe, so numerous and almost inexhaustible were the documents of all kinds which he continued to examine throughout his life.

It was not until 1835, nearly twenty years after he had began his work, that his first volume appeared; and from that time till quite recently fresh instalments have been given to the world at considerable intervals. "Little is wanting," says the editor of the work, "to the completion of the monument erected by Merle D'Aubigné. It is much to be regretted that we cannot follow John Knox in Scotland, or Marnix in the Netherlands, to the full accomplishment of their work. In these countries the temple-door is closed before us just as we are passing the threshold. To complete the history the author would have required two more years of life and labour; and this was denied him. Everything, however, that is essential to the history of the Reformation is narrated in these thirteen volumes."

It should be noted that the work is divided into two distinct parts. The first five volumes treat of the early course of the Reformation in Germany, France, Switzerland, and England; and the second extending to eight (embraced by the present English translation) describes the progress of the movement in the time of Calvin. Of the thirteen volumes ten were published during the author's life, and three (under the present editor) have been issued since his death. Though the progress of later events in Spain, under which the young Reformation was ruthlessly quenched, and in Germany, is outlined with all D'Aubigné's grace and picturesque power of arrangement, the most interesting portion to English readers will undoubtedly be that which is concerned with the later period of Henry VIII.'s reign and his relations to the Reformation. Never has D'Aubigné acquitted himself with more of mastery. Notwithstanding the complications arising from conflicting motives on the King's part, D'Aubigné presses right home to the kernel, discriminating the real intentions of the king from his professed purposes, and winding up a very masterly summary of his characteristics thus:—

Henry had brought into the world with him remarkable capacities, and these had been improved by education. He has been praised for his application to the business of the State, for his wonderful cleverness, his rare eloquence, his high courage. He has been looked upon as a Mæcenas, and pronounced a great prince. His abilities certainly give him a place above the average of kings. He regularly attended the council, corresponded with his ambassadors, and took much pains. In politics he had some clear views. He caused the Bibles to be printed; but the moral sentiment is shocked when he is held up as a model. The two most conspicuous features of his character were pride and sensuality, and by these vices he was driven to most blameworthy actions and even to crimes. Pride led him to make himself head of the Church, to claim the right to regulate the faith of his subjects, and to punish cruelly those who had the audacity to hold any other opinions on matters of religion than his own. The Reformation of which he is assumed to be the author was hardly a pseudo-reform; we might rather see in it another species of *deformation*. Claiming autocracy in matters of faith, he naturally claimed the same in matters of State. All the duties of his subjects were summed up by him in the one word obedience, and those who refused to bow the head to his despotic rule were almost sure to lose it. He was covetous, prodigal, capricious, suspicious. Not only was he fickle in his friendships, but on many occasions he did not hesitate to take his victims from amongst his best friends. His treatment of his wives, and especially of Anne Boleyn, condemns him as a man. His bloody persecutions of the evangelicals condemn him as a Christian. The scandalous servility which he endeavoured, and not unsuccessfully, to engraft in the nobles, the bishops, the House of Commons, and the people, condemn him as a king.

There is a certain fitness in the close of the work, which is concerned with the last days and dying scene of Luther at his native Eisleben in 1546. The Counts of Mansfeld had become involved in a quarrel with their subjects and some neighbouring baron, and wanted the reformer to come and mediate the difference. Luther was now sixty-three, and subject to fits of giddiness, but he responded to the call, and entered Eisleben on Jan. 28, 1546, with his friend Jonas, who had accompanied him to the Diet of Worms, and his two sons, Martin, aged fifteen, and Paul, thirteen. His weakness increased, and on Feb. 17 he realised that his illness was fatal. The words most frequently on his lips were:—"Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit; Thou hast redeemed me, O God of Truth." His friends being gathered round him on the 18th he intimated that his last hour was come. "No," said Jonas, "you are now in a perspiration and will soon be better." "It is the sweat of death," said Luther, "I am nearly at my last breath"; and after engaging in prayer he repeated once more his watchword, "Thou hast redeemed me, O God of Truth."

He then closed his eyes. They touched him, moved him, called to him, but he made no answer. In vain they applied the cloths which the town-clerk and his wife heated, in vain the Countess of Mansfeld and the physicians endeavoured to revive him with tonics. He remained motionless. All who stood round him, perceiving that God was going to take away from the Church militant this mighty warrior, were deeply affected. The two physicians noted from minute to minute the approach of death. The two boys, Martin and Paul, kneeling and in tears, cried to God to spare to them their father. Ambrose lamented the master, and Coelius, the friend, whom they had so much loved. The Count of Mansfeld thought of the troubles which Luther's death might bring on the empire. The distressed countess sobbed and covered her eyes with her hands that she might not behold the mournful scene. Jonas, a little apart from the rest, felt heartbroken at the thought of the terrible blow impending over the Reformation. He wished to receive from the dying Luther a last testimony. He therefore rose and went up to his friend, and, bending over him, "Reverend father, in your dying hour do you rest on Jesus Christ, and stedfastly rely upon the doctrine which you have preached?" "Yes," said Luther, so that all who were present could hear him. This was his last word. The pallor of death overspread his countenance; his forehead, his hands, and his feet turned cold. They addressed him by his baptismal name, "Doctor Martin," but in vain—he made no response. He drew a deep breath and fell asleep in the Lord. It was between two and three o'clock in the morning. "Truly," said Jonas, to whom we are indebted for these details, "Thou lettest, Lord, Thy servant depart in peace, and Thou accomplishest for him the promise which Thou madest us, and which he himself wrote the other day in a Bible presented to one of his friends:—'Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.'"

At the end of the volume there is a fac-simile of the indulgence issued by Pope Leo X., the sale of which by Tetzel aroused Luther's opposition. It is taken from a copy recently acquired by the British Museum. So far as known, no fac-simile has ever been published before, nor has any previously printed copy possessed the merit of complete accuracy. The indulgence is lavish with its remissions, but there are limits to liberality; and one of its most curious clauses is the exception from favour of those engaged in the importation of alum from heathen to Christian parts. The object of the restriction was to keep up the trade in alum with Tolfa, in Italy, which was a profitable monopoly, the only other supplies of the article coming from the possessions of the Sultan. Mr. Cates has done his work of translation with great care, having caught generally the spirit of his author. Here and there he reflects faithfully that fine eloquence which gives D'Aubigné so great an attractive power. The full index which is here supplied to the eight volumes will be found of vast service.

* *History of the Reformation in Europe in the Time of Calvin.* By the Rev. J. H. MERLE D'AUBIGNE, D.D. Translated by WILLIAM L. R. CATES. Vol. VIII. Spain, England, Germany. (Longmans.)

CASSELL'S MAGAZINE OF ART.

We have now two numbers of this new serial before us. A careful perusal of these, we think, justifies us in saying that we somewhat fear Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin have generously over-estimated the æsthetic taste of the masses. Clearly the magazine has been planned on the idea of a more extensive circulation than has yet been accorded to a purely artistic magazine, while the literary contents and general style of illustration are certainly not far behind those of the more select and dearer rivals which have for so long held chief possession of the field. Thirty-two large-sized pages of most interesting and varied writing, relieved by engravings from the hands of the most popular artists, for the low price of sevenpence, is surely altogether unprecedented. The lowest price at which any art magazine has heretofore tried to float itself was one shilling—that being the price of the one edited by Mr. Forbes-Robertson, which, however, restricted itself to three reproductions of celebrated pictures by one or other of the autotypic processes, with very scanty descriptive letterpress and short accounts of the exhibitions and reviews of books bearing on art. Here, on the other hand, we have really careful and almost exhaustive essays on a variety of art subjects, in which it is clear that men approved in their several departments have been at work. Mr. W. H. Tregellas, writing under the general head of "Artists' Haunts," gives admirable sketches of some of the most striking scenery in Cornwall; and Mr. Hugh W. Sweny, under the same heading, in the second number, presents some finished pictures of Prague. Mr. E. M. Ward is well sketched under the heading of "Our Living Artists"; and has for companion Sir Francis Grant, in reference to whom a very characteristic bit is quoted from Sir Walter Scott, who remarked that Francis Grant had easily accomplished the by-no-means difficult feat of spending a younger son's portion over a racing stud, and was more likely to make up for it by painting, for which he had, in Sir Walter's idea, a genuine talent, than by the law. "I am no judge of painting," wrote Sir Walter, "but I am conscious that Sir Francis Grant possesses, with much cleverness, a sense of beauty derived from the best source, that is, the observation of really good society, while in many modern artists the want in that species of feeling is so great as to be revolting. . . He has, I think, that degree of force of character, which will make him keep and enlarge any reputation which he may acquire. He has confidence, too, in his own powers, always requisite for a young gentleman trying things of this sort whose aristocratic pretensions must be envied." "Art in Metal" is treated with great succinctness and fulness of knowledge by J. Hungerford Pollen, while the subject of "Colours in Precious Stones" is well dealt with by Prof. A. H. Church, M.A. Mr. R. H. Soden Smith, F.S.A., is peculiarly interesting on the "Vicissitudes of Art Treasures." In addition to articles like these there are such serials as those on the Paris Exhibition (with diagrams), and on the Royal Academy and Grosvenor Gallery, "Half-hours in

the Studios," and art notes for the month. Every page almost has its quota of illustration. Particularly fine is the wood engraving from Mr. Pettie's picture, "The General's Headquarters," and not less so the smaller engraving from Raphael's Madonna in the Dresden Gallery. But perhaps the best piece in the first number is the copy of Mr. Ward's picture, "The Queen of Prussia and Napoleon Buonaparte," which indicates well the character and expression of that remarkable painting and the depth of colouring and fine play of light and shade. Miss Jopley's drawing from her own picture, "It might have been," is as free and noble a piece of wood-cutting as we have recently seen.

From what we have said, it will be seen that we regard Messrs. Cassell's venture as erring rather on the side of excess than of defect. If the art-tastes of the great masses of the population are not quite what they should be, this kind of literature must prove a very valuable instrumentality to elevate them to a higher standard; and as nothing is more refining than a true love of art, we do hope that Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin may have the reward which is more especially due to those who, in great measure, form the taste by which they are supported. No more thoroughly satisfactory piece of work has ever been offered at the price than these numbers of the *Magazine of Art*, subscribers to which will, at the year's end, find themselves in possession of a good art library and miniature art gallery also.

THE MAGAZINES—JUNE.

"The leafy month of June." Some of the periodicals before us refer to the season of the year poetically or prosily, as may happen, but all with an attempt to stimulate the imagination—as men living in London need to be stimulated. But the hermit of *Fraser* does not live in London, and therefore his words are not quite so forced as some of those we have had the pain rather than the pleasure of reading. But living in the country, he apparently seems obliged to say something respectful and even genial of spring in London, and we quite agree with him and with every word that he says. Listen to this:—

> The vernal equinox past, and Spring really with us and improving day by day up to midsummer, who would stay in the Wilderness of Brick that could fly from it? I asked myself this, lying on the grass under a great hawthorn bush "dipt in cream"; but next began to consider that it is not fair to despise London, even in this view. The great city is very bright in spring with its successive almond blossoms, lilacs, horse chesnuts, its well-wooded parks and verdant suburbs.
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> And how luckily the West-end Parks are linked to each other, as in a careless chain, so that from far-away corners of Chelsea, Brompton, Kensington, Bayswater, you can walk up into the core of West London at Charing Cross, or to Westminster Bridge, with a mere busy crossing or two in the whole stretch, as frequent reminder that you are passing among green woods through the midst of the greatest city in the world.
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> Nay, if he knows his town, the pedestrian can push on hither and thither among the countless abodes of men by many a picturesque route and without long losing sight of green branches. The Embankment brings him to the garden and quaint courts of that Temple whose book of the law is bulkier and more complex than the old one. From crowded Fleet-street and Chancery-lane he soon escapes into the other learned and city-verdurous region of Lincoln's-inn, and again, crossing Holborn, into the embrace of shadowy Gray's-inn and Lord Verulam's renowned ghost.
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> 'Tis pleasant to remind one's self how much the great smoky foggy noisy province covered with houses has to recommend it. When I am in town in early summer I long to be in the country; but when I am in the country, be it in a soft elysium of young green leaves, tufts of fragrant primroses, wild hyacinths like ponds of harmless blue fire, and all things that paint the meadows with delight, harangued by the blackbird and serenaded by the nightingale, or in a nobler earthly paradise of lake and mountain, I confess I often think fondly of London.

On the whole, the "Ivy Leaves" are the best of the contents of *Fraser* this month. Next to these we place Mr. Kegan Paul's article on "Mary Wollstonecraft," which is a thoroughly valuable contribution to English biography. Mr. James Howard's paper on the "Railway Commissioners and the Companies" would have been better if Mr. Howard had considered that there was a third party to the squabbles that have been going on, that is the public. The writer on "Garden Allotments" is too theoretical.

The tales in *Blackwood* are of the highest character. "Mine is Thine" is finished. This month we will say nothing concerning the Eastern Question, upon which we are never likely to agree with "Maga," but we should like to quote from a very appreciative notice of the late James Hinton some remarks upon certain supposed influences of Nonconformity which it might be well for all of us to study—

> It is scarcely possible to doubt that the Nonconformist communions impose a special character upon even the greater intellects they produce. A certain harder persistency of thinking, an indifference to external circumstances and conditions, would seem to belong to their offspring, giving them a certain resemblance, on one side at least, to the specially Scotch (we might say the conventionally Scotch) intelligence, which is so universally influenced by a Church without dignitaries or high emoluments, and destitute of ritual. Perhaps the outside of things can never be so completely indifferent to minds trained in the traditions of a more elaborate worship. The fundamental idea of an entirely spiritual devotion, requiring no aids from without—which can be practised anywhere, at any time or place, and requires little qualification in its teachers, except the untestable one of spiritual life—must inevitably bring with it a greater independence of the external in common matters; though it is somewhat difficult to separate this effect from that of the natural bias of middle-class life, the instincts of that portion of society which, shut out by fortune from the lovelier surroundings of existence, makes to itself a religion of the homely and frugal. Between them, however, it is clear enough that the product must be remarkable, when an able mind and fine character get formed between the pressure of humble circumstances on one side, and Nonconformist influence on the other. Then we may look for a self-denial which is Spartan but unconscious, and scarcely aware that its bare and scant existence is not as beautiful as any; a self-respect which is founded on a real right to be respected, yet is sometimes disagreeable to others from that very deservedness; and a tendency to be ruthless in destruction of the flowers of life for all around, because they have never appeared necessary to its own being. A character like this is not incompatible with a deep vein of romance and tenderness, and may be dominated by high principles and purpose in a way which is beyond the comprehension of many, which seems cruel and terrible to those natures that have need of brightness; and it is easy to understand how its intellectual portion, especially when of high tone, encroaches upon everything else, and counts all as loss that is not appropriated to its own pursuits. This was eminently the character of Hinton.

Belgravia has an ingenious paper on "The Mysteries of Edwin Drood," suggesting how Dickens intended to finish that unfinished tale. We agree with the writer, and, indeed, could almost have fancied that he had borrowed our own ideas. But that is impossible. Let us hint that Drood was never killed, and that Drood and Datchery are identical. That is exactly what Dickens intended to bring about. Good, of course, is the beginning of Mr. Wilkie Collins's new tale here, and equally, of course, mysterious as good. There is a very readable paper also on "The Great Tropical Fallacy," which, by-the-bye, Mr. Wallace long ago exposed.

Good, as usual, is *Temple Bar*—light and various. The article on "Lady Caroline Lamb" puts together some materials not hitherto collected, and gives us some idea of the purgatory through which Lord Melbourne must have gone. There are, too, some good anecdotes. And the paper on "Richard Burbage," Shakespeare's contemporary, is also very fresh, with a great deal more in it than one might have imagined could have been written—all interesting because of the close connection of all with Shakespeare himself. "Ministers and Maxims" deals with Halifax this month. There is a tendency in these papers to express admiration of the distinctive qualities of great men. Because Halifax was the "Trimmer," why should we admire trimming?

We are no better pleased with the flavour of "Roy's Wife" in the *Gentleman's Magazine* than before, but there is matter to compensate for this. There is "Domestic Slave Dealing in Turkey," and Mr. Proctor's article on the "Phonograph"—the latter the best that has yet been written. And how well Dr. Andrew Wilson discourses of "Animals and their Environments," and Red Spinner of angling—Red Spinner could even make *no* angling interesting.

Of Miss Keary's new tale in *Macmillan* it is yet too early to speak. Note that Professor Max Müller's lectures are appearing in this magazine, and, good although the other contents may be, they are worth the whole number. Mr. Willoughby's article on "Freemasonry" destroys some of the absurd romance attached to that subject. And now, as we do not often quote poetry, and there is so seldom anything worth quoting, may we ask the reader to look at this?—

A CHILD'S STORY.

With rosy cheeks and golden hair
And joyous smile, just turn'd of three,
He came and said that he must tell
A tale to me.

"Three little peop'e," so he spoke,
"Went out to seek for God above,
And two of them were Faith and Hope,
The other Love.

They wander'd near, they wander'd far
But never found the God they sought,
And Faith and Hope were lost and gone
And came to nought."

I asked of Love, and where was he.
"Oh, mother, he is strong to bear;
He struggled on to God at last—
He now is there.

And I must go, and I must play."
He danced away with laughing eyes,
Blue as the glacier's sapphire depths,
Or summer skies.

But in my brain the baby tale
Reiterated o'er and o'er,
As if it were the last true word
Of this sad hour.

Oh, hope deferr'd! oh, faltering faith!
Weak forces doom'd to droop and die,
Not yours to find man's mystic God.
Now or eternally.

In Love, as yet but faintly known,
Lies all the future of our kind,
Cling to him, that on some far shore,
Faith, Hope, ye find.

Let us next call attention to Dr. Tuke's article on "Broadmoor, and Our Criminal Lunatics."

The *University Magazine* has two papers of remarkable interest. The first is Karl Blind's on "Vyera Sassulitch." Our readers know that this was the young lady who shot at the Chief of Police in St. Petersburg, and who was acquitted. The history is remarkable and suggestive, and told in Karl Blind's best tone. Next is the memoir of Charles Reade, whom posterity will probably consider to be a greater novelist than his contemporaries consider him to be. With it we have the only photographic likeness of Charles Reade that has ever been taken. It is fine, but, as we can say of most things, as a likeness it might have been better—the photographer catching only a passing set of the features, and not as they are at perfect rest. There are some capital anecdotes in Mr. Harrison's reminiscences. Shall we say that we are rather surprised at seeing no reference to the Hertford College case in the "Spirit of the Universities"?

In the *Cornhill* Mrs. Oliphant is showing a singular power in "Within the Precincts," as though this were her first, and therefore her freshest, novel. A "Fiery World" is a magnificent piece of astronomical writing: subject—Mercury, the conclusion concerning which is that it never has been, and never can be, inhabited. We should like to quote. And, pray, why not?

> No choice seems left but to adopt one or other of two general inferences respecting the possibility of life upon the fiery Mercury. Either we must believe that the conditions under which life can exist vary much more widely than anything known here (as respects either the present era of the earth's history or those remote ages in the past when her condition was probably very different) would suggest, or else we must admit the probability that this small planet is not only at present unfit to be the abode of life, but cannot have been inhabited in any past era, and can never become habitable hereafter.
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> To many the first of these inferences will commend itself as the more satisfactory. It appears to some altogether inconceivable either that a planet can have been made for any other purpose but to become the abode of living creatures, or that, regarding a planet as only fitted for such a purpose—as having no other conceivable use, if we may so speak—any planet can fail of fulfilling that purpose. Such persons are barely willing to accept the opinion which we have advocated as in reality according best with known facts, that each planet has its special period of fitness for life, which period is short in duration compared both with the preceding period of preparation and with the sequent periods of decadence and ultimately of deathlike unchangeableness. But they are utterly unwilling to accept the possibility which suggests itself to all who consider the full evidence in these matters—that a considerable proportion of the orbs which people space are not only not inhabited now, but never have been inhabited and never will be.
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> Yet to those who consider the subject apart from conceptions based on our own insignificance both as to space and as to time, a planet in such respects differs in degree only, not in kind, from an embryo or a seed. Granting that the support of life is the special purpose for which alone a planet is suited, that cannot be more certainly known than that the special purpose for which a seed is formed (in every detail of its structure) is that it should eventually grow into a plant of its own kind. Even adding to this special purpose of a seed's structure such other purposes as seeds fulfil in becoming parts of the food of men and animals, or in being employed to make various substances of use to man, is it not the case that multitudes of seeds fulfil none of these purposes? We know that of seeds even which are preserved for sowing some fall by the wayside, and are devoured by the fowls of the air, and so become of use after a fashion. But "some fall in stony places, where they have not much earth, and forthwith they spring up, because they have no deepness of earth, and when the sun is up they are scorched, and because they have no root they wither away." And again, "some fall among thorns, and the thorns spring up and choke them." Not all fall into good ground and bring forth fruit, whether an hundredfold, or sixtyfold, or thirtyfold. May not the same be true also, though on so much larger a scale, of planets? In His eyes to whom one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years are as one day, we may be sure that the mightiest orb in space is as a grain of seed, a grain of seed as the mightiest orb. Of the planets which were made (let us assume to support life), even as the seed after its kind, some may spring too soon into being, when the fires of the youthful sun are poured too scorchingly upon them for life to come into existence. Others (like the zone of asteroids) may be scattered in such sort that they never even spring into full being as planets. Only a proportion may, like our own earth, come into being in pleasant places, where neither too intense a heat nor unendurable cold may afflict creatures living upon them; and thus they may bring forth life abundantly, after their kind, and in such degree as may be suited to their position in the planetary universe.

In *London Society* we turn, as usual, first to our two favourite papers—the "Field Cricket" and "Switzerland." We have begun to look for these,

The other contents are amusing and interesting. —*Tinsley* is a little too full of tales, but otherwise is very readable.

The *Argosy* is good as usual, and there are in it some of the best of light tales; but Mr. Charles Wood, good although his papers are, as we have said more than once, never seems to know when to leave off. The results are that, first you get tired, and secondly you cease to read.

Mr. Joseph Williams gives us a pleasant sketch of a Quaker family of the past century in the *Day of Rest*, and Dr. Vaughan a well-written paper on Wycliffe and his work, but no Churchman can consistently praise that; or, if he can, it is clear that he does not understand it. Mr. Cox has a characteristic little sermon on the "Divine Meaning of the Discipline of Life," and there are twenty other papers of more than average merit. The illustrations of "Pilgrim's Progress" are admirable, as usual.

In the *Sunday at Home* Dr. Bonar gives us some more "Hymns of the Early Church," with some fine translations, and there is a good account of Levi Coffin's Underground Railroad, but something should have been said of the work from which the account is drawn—one of the most interesting ever brought out. We are obliged to say that the "Frozen Chalice," intended no doubt to be sensational, is a failure, and that nobody will understand how or why the writer worked himself up into such a state of excitement about it.——Our admirable *Leisure Hour* is admirable as ever, Lombardy Court ending pleasantly, Mr. Thomas Cook in his travelling experiences making us want to take all his tours, and Miss Bird exciting our envy of her Rocky Mountain experiences. Besides there are curious papers concerning the "Heralds' College," "Judge's Leisure Hours" "English Folk Lore" and Belzoni's Early Experiences.

Good Words carries on Mr. Black's "Macleod of Dare," with rapidity and effect and Dr. Lawries is very interesting in his "Convicts and Quakers" telling us much that we did not know before. Dean Stanley's "Religious Aspects of Gothic Architecture" is beautiful. We are glad that the Dean does not again suggest that the Nonconformists would be glad to destroy Westminster Abbey. Dr. Andrew Wilson on "Some Animal Transformations," deals with a subject which excites equally our admiration and our wonder. There is another paper on "John Duncan, the Alford Weaver," and another by Major Butler concerning his journey from Cariboo to California.—The *Sunday Magazine* has what may be described as a pretty poem on "Desert Flowers" by Mr. R. H. Smith. Isn't the "Domestic Life of the Prince Consort" rather stale? The practical paper on coffee-stalls is very valuable, and Dr. Macmillan is as poetical as ever in "Rain upon the Mown Grass," but it has been forgotten that rain spoils the mown grass. It is well sometimes to be literal.

The *Quiver* is perhaps not quite so fresh as usual, but "A Month among the Mad" is an exception, and so is "A Norwegian Love Story." Sir Herbert Oakley's new hymn-tune is full of harmony, and has also some original characteristics.—— *Cassell's Family* has a very pretty tale, "As Companion to a Lady," and capital practical articles on "How we Married on a Small Income" (are we wise in mentioning this?), the "Doctor's Corner in the Kitchen Garden," and "Fish: How to Cook and When to Eat It."

We have also the *Christian Treasury*, varied and religious; the *Family Treasury*, religious and varied; the *Congregationalist* in which there is an article of strength and originality on the Test and Corporation Acts; and the *Baptist Magazine*, in which Mr. Trestrail continues his interesting reminiscences.

BRIEF NOTICES.

The History and Doctrines of Irvingism, or the so-called Catholic and Apostolic Church. By EDWARD MILLER, M.A., Vicar of Butler's Marston. (C. Kegan Paul and Co.) It has seemed to us, in reading this work, that Mr. Miller has used a sledge-hammer to crush a fly. Even if it be, as he intimates in his preface, that some clergymen of the Established Church have gone over to Irvingism, was it worth while to try and prevent others by writing two volumes? First of all, such labour will in all probability be in vain, and secondly, the men who would go over to Irvingism can scarcely be worth keeping in the Church. We say this with all respect for Mr. Miller's motives and with a thorough sense of the great ability with which he has executed his self-imposed task: we only add that the "game was not worth the candle." Mr. Miller writes with great ease—sometimes with eloquence. He is, at the same time, thorough and painstaking, and also he is clear and honest, both in statement and in argument. Those who rate the importance of his subject higher than we do will no doubt receive his work, as they should, with gratification.

Sermons on Disputed Points and Special Occasions. By GEORGE DAWSON, M.A. Edited by his Wife. (C. Kegan Paul and Co.) The reader almost knows beforehand what to expect in Mr. Dawson's sermons, but he will find, if he should read this volume, that he could not altogether know. With all his knowledge two characteristics may surprise him—first, the very undaunted assaults on orthodoxy, as when he speaks of "the damnable heresies of orthodoxy"; and secondly, the profoundly devotional spirit that is so characteristic of many of these discourses. There are some modes of expressing everlasting truth in these discourses which are very fresh and genuine, with a savour of humanity which is not always to be met with. But we can scarcely be expected to say that Mr. Dawson always expressed such truth.

The Seven Seals Unveiled, &c. Deciphered by THOMAS PALMER, of Sydney, Australia. (Elliot Stock.) It is with hesitation and some reluctance that we take up any work upon this subject, considering the exaggerated nonsense that has been written upon it. The author makes his claim in the manner common to most interpreters of prophecy. He says, "Many years' study and love of the Bible emboldens the author of this essay to press his views upon the public. To him the letters of the seven Churches of Asia seemed intended by Divine wisdom to hide the true purport of the parable-vision of the seven-sealed book from all but those true saints who were among the Jews when the days of vengeance were nigh. . . . The vision was of instant moment to the saints in the land of Judea, Galilee, Samaria, and Idumea. The seven-sealed book was the book which Daniel was commanded to seal up until the time of the end—that is, the end of the nation and religion of the Jews." Further, "this vision was intended to make all the true saints among the Hebrews bid an eternal farewell to their old nation, law, and religion, and go among the Gentiles." The author patches together a good deal of well-known information in support of this theory, but that is all. ——*Inspired Ethics.* Being a Revised Translation and topical arrangement of the Book of Proverbs. By JOHN STOCK, LL.D. (Elliot Stock.) Books are generally best understood by reading them in the order and manner in which they are written, and the Book of Proverbs is no exception to this rule. Nevertheless Dr. Stock has performed an extremely satisfactory work with care, and we may say, although the term may seem to be inappropriate, with cleverness. Many translations are improvements and the classified collections of sentences sometimes add emphasis to moral strength.——*Hard to Win; or, a Yoke Broken*, by Mrs. GEORGE CUPPLES (W. Oliphant and Co.), is one of Mrs. Cupples' very best tales—better essentially in graphic incident than most. It deals with some painful phases of low London life, but its best feature consists in tracing the development of a weak into a strong character. This is done with remarkable effect.——*Blue Bell*, by M. BRAMSTON (Marcus Ward and Co.), is admirably illustrated by Mr. Marcus Stone, but is not equal to some of the authoress's previous works—nothing like equal to "Em." Still it is a pleasant tale, with some dramatic incident and some pathos—well told of course, but not with the force and sharpness that are found in "Em." By-the-bye, we should say that this is the first volume of the "Blue Bell" series.——We have received the *Homo-Apeiad* (Weldon and Co.), a rather vulgar and not clever caricature of Mr. Darwin's theory, and in new form; the three popular—and deservedly popular—works by Dr. Ingraham—*The Prince of the House of David*, the *Pillar of Fire*, and the *Throne of David*. (Warne and Co.) We had not met with the last-named until now. It is an admirable representation of the life and times of David.

Mr. Hepworth Dixon, says the *Athenæum*, is preparing a work on Her Majesty's Castle of Windsor, as a complement to that on Her Majesty's Tower of London. It will probably be ready for publication in the autumn.

In their annual trade circular, Messrs. G. J. Cockerell and Co. quote a lower price for the best Wallsend coals (24s. per ton) than it has been possible to do for many years past. They repeat their recommendation to purchase at this season, not only because of the advantage in price, but also on account of the better condition in which the coals can be worked in the summer. Moreover, it would be a serious disadvantage to all were the coal supply of London postponed to the winter months.

THE BURIALS QUESTION.

The Archdeacon of Canterbury (Dr. Parry, Bishop of Dover) last week concluded his annual visitation in the Chapter-house of Canterbury Cathedral. The visitation occupied two days. In the course of his charge Bishop Parry made the following remarks upon the burials question:—In addition to new churchyards and public cemeteries, there have been consecrated during the last eight years throughout our diocese thirty-seven plots of ground as additions to existing churchyards. In many cases the ground was the gift of the squire, in some from the incumbent's glebe. "Consecration," be it remembered, is a purely technical and legal term, involving the due conveyance and registration of a piece of ground, marked out on a plan, for burials according to the rites of the Church of England. Now, whenever I have been concerned in the consecration of an additional churchyard, I am bound to confess that I have wished it possible legally to leave a small portion of the ground "unconsecrated"—*i.e.*, open to funerals accompanied by rites other than those of the Church. Could this be permitted, which I am advised cannot be done now, the Dissenter, it is true, might have his grave on one side of a gravel path or fringe of shrubs, while others, whether Churchmen or Dissenters, if buried by the clergyman, would lie on the other. But, after all, this would be in practice nothing more than a sexton's rule. Nor can I think it wholly impossible, even outside the coast of Utopia, that such a thing might possibly happen sometimes as that the parish clergyman, having been asked to meet a body at the lych-gate, might precede it into church, read there himself, as now, the Psalm and Lesson, and then join the mourners at the graveside in that portion of ground of which I have spoken, and listen with them to words of prayer and praise uttered not by himself, but by some personal friend of his dead parishioner. Of any serious danger from an offensive Secularist or Liberationist display I have not much fear. But, even as the law now stands, we are not without some glimmer of a reasonable solution of part, at least, of the problem which has been thrust upon our generation for solution. Many of you know Romney Marsh well. Some tell me that it is unlike any other part of Kent or of the world. A few weeks since, at Brenzett, I consecrated a graveyard about 300 yards from the church. A strip of grass on one side of a gravel walk was marked on the plan for burials other than those of our Church. This, of course, was no novelty, for it was a public cemetery. But at Brenzett no two chapels reared their heads as untoward emblems of religious discord in death. The parishioners, with praiseworthy unanimity, had fulfilled the conditions of a certain section of a Burial Act which rendered unnecessary the erection of such chapels. There is, of course, a Burial Board, but a board of some kind will be required in any future legislation, and is, indeed, necessary when the ground and fences are to be kept in order out of a parochial rate. Here is an instance of what may be done as the law stands. But such an example cannot be generally followed until a step be taken which I hold to be one of primary importance—viz., the appointment of a Commission to inspect all existing churchyards; to close, within a reasonable period, all those which are too full for decency and health, and to compel the provision of new burial grounds. If these can be found within a reasonable distance of the church for the convenience of those whose rites enjoin a preliminary service in church, we may at once dispense with the erection of that flaunting signboard of religious strife, a double chapel on the ground. Moreover — not without an obvious bearing upon the fear that the churchyard might prove a political stepping-stone to the Church—where ground could not be secured near the church, a very simple alteration in the rubric would permit the reading of the whole service at the grave, with liberty to shorten the earlier portion in cold or stormy weather. For my part, however, I cannot see why one building near the entrance to the ground should not suffice for the use, if desired, of Churchman and Dissenter alike. Few, I should think, who have been called upon to lay their dead to rest in some Protestant Campo Santo beyond the Channel have felt any feelings outraged, or principles violated, because the chapel in which they listened to the touching words of our noble funeral service might be used within a few hours for a like purpose by German Lutheran, or French Reformed, or English Wesleyan mourners. No doubt such suggestions are far too simple to meet the views of those root-and-branch reformers who will have nothing but equal rights everywhere with the parish clergyman. But their adoption would go far to narrow the area of any grievance which commends itself to general sympathy. The question of public graveyards has been settled as regards our cities, and the claims of the country may fairly now come forward for a hearing.

A correspondent of the *Daily News* writes:—"The Vicar of Winchcombe, the Rev. R. Noble Jackson, continues to offend in the matter of the Burial Service. About twelve months ago complaint was made that he had omitted the words 'sure and certain hope' at the funeral of a Wesleyan Methodist of over half-a-century's standing. The matter was brought before the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, and his lordship informed the vicar 'that he had done what was illegal, and desired him not to do it again.' Mr. Jackson subsequently explained 'that he had objections to pronounce over any one, whether Churchman or Dissenter, such solemn words as 'sure and certain

hope'; that he had not this sure and certain hope about his own salvation, and very seldom read these words at all.' Notwithstanding his bishop's admonition the Vicar of Winchcombe has repeated the offence several times during the year, omitting the words in the case of Nonconformists, whilst using them over members of the Established Church. A very glaring instance of this partiality occurred about three weeks ago. Two children were being buried at the same time, the one a girl about twelve years of age, the daughter of Wesleyan Methodists, and the other being the child of Church parents. The graves were a little distance apart, and the vicar stood about midway between them, reading the service for both simultaneously. When he came to the vexed sentence, however, he turned towards the grave of the Church child, and read distinctly, 'in sure and certain hope'; then turning towards the other grave repeated the sentence, but leaving out the words 'sure and certain,' and so proceeded to the end of the service."

At the village of Tilton a few days since a child two years old was accidentally drowned, and the vicar refused to give the deceased burial owing to its not having received baptism.

ECCLESIASTICAL MISCELLANY.

THE TEST ACTS DINNER. — We remind our readers that Saturday is the last day to apply for tickets for the dinner at the Cannon-street Hotel on the 18th of June. In addition to Earl Granville, several members of the late Liberal Government, together with a large number of members of Parliament, have intimated their intention to be present. The applications should be addressed to Mr. A. J. Shepheard, 32, Finsbury-circus, E.C.

It is stated that a revision of the Church Establishment in the Presidency of Bombay has been sanctioned by the Government of India as proposed by the local Government.

The Chancellor's medal at Cambridge University for the English prize poem of this year is awarded to Mr. Dale, of Trinity, son of the Rev. R. W. Dale, of Birmingham, who gained it once before.

Proceedings have been taken against the Rev. C. F. Lowder, of St. Peter's, London Docks, for Ritualism. An address of sympathy has been signed by 1,702 of his congregation, 1,600 of whom are parishioners.

VICARAGE OF KENSINGTON.—The Hon. and Rev. Edward Carr Glyn, vicar of Doncaster, has been appointed, on the nomination of the Lord Chancellor, to the vicarage of Kensington, vacant by the elevation of the Rev. W. A. Maclagan to the Bishopric of Lichfield.

A NOVEL DISCOVERY.—The *National Church* for its own purposes is always forward to take note of the activity of the Liberation Society. We are told not only that the clergy receive their parcels according to the alphabetical order of the Clergy List, but that among the laity the publications are being distributed in "hampers!"

THE ST. VEDAST RITUALIST CASE.—A new proceeding against Mr. Dale, of St. Vedast, Foster-lane, for Ritualistic practices, has been commenced; but as the Bishop and the Archbishop are joint patrons there is a little difficulty as to whom the representation should be made. The *Church Times* thinks that Mr. Dale ought to be allowed to continue his illegal practices on the ground "that he has no Ritualism after eight o'clock in the morning."

THE SALE OF LIVINGS.—The following are the names of members of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the law and existing practices as to the sale, exchange, and resignation of ecclesiastical benefices, and to recommend remedies for abuses if any are found to exist:—The Duke of Cleveland, the Bishop of Peterborough, the Bishop of Ely, Lord Justice James, Viscount Midleton, Lord Geo. Cavendish, M.P., Sir W. H. Stephenson, K.C.B., Mr. Geo. Cubitt, M.P., the Rev. Geo. Venables (Vicar of Great Yarmouth), and Mr. Edw. Stanley Hope (Secretary).

ROMANIST SECTARIANISM.—A few days since the Bournemouth Burial Board discussed an agreement which had been prepared on behalf of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Southwark, who, on the part of the Roman Catholics of Bournemouth, asked that a separate entrance be provided at the cemetery for them, and that their plot of land be separated from other parts of the cemetery by a fence or wall. This was strongly opposed by the Nonconformist members of the board, and, after a long discussion, the question was adjourned to the next meeting. We hope to hear that this retrogressive proposal has been resolutely rejected.

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND AND MILITARY POMP.—In the House of Commons on Thursday, Sir G. Campbell asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention had been called to the accounts of the opening of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland by the High Commissioners with a royal salute, a body of horse, foot, and artillery, and other paraphernalia —("Oh, oh!")—and whether the time had not come when the practice might be discontinued. Mr. Cross: I think, Sir, that the usual forms and ceremonies accompanying the visit of the High Commissioners representing Her Majesty having been followed, there is no reason why they should be discontinued.

THE POPE AND THE JESUITS.—A special telegram to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, dated Friday, says:—"The Pope, ill in body and distracted in mind by plots and cabals designed to prevent reforms, is reported to be manifesting a disposition to abdicate. Cardinal Franchi is doing his utmost to check the machinations of the Jesuits. These, on the other hand, are bent on bringing about the Cardinal's downfall." A telegram from Rome, in the *Standard* of Sunday's date, says:—"Alarmed by the Pope's idea of abdication, the Intransigenti are making efforts to obtain his renewal of the excommunications and protests against the King of Italy and his Government customary on the festival of St. Peter."

THE PRESTBURY RITUALIST CASE.—It is stated that the proceedings against the Rev. J. Edwards, jun., Vicar of Prestbury, have failed. Lord Penzance directed an amended affidavit of service to be filed, which order was complied with, and it was anticipated that Mr. Edwards would have been committed for contempt in not obeying the judgment of the Arches Court to discontinue his Ritualistic practices. It appears, however, that the notice called a "significat" from the Arches Court has not been lodged within the period prescribed, and therefore the writ *de contumace capiendo* cannot be obtained without a special application in the matter. No notice has, it is said, been given of such an application, and there the matter will rest for the present.

IRISH EDUCATION.—Lord Beaconsfield has replied to the Mayor of Dublin that the urgency of foreign affairs prevented him giving his attention to matters of such magnitude and complexity as Intermediate Education and University and Primary Education in Ireland. In consequence of his lordship's refusal to receive a deputation, the Dublin Town Council have passed a resolution that the Lord Mayor should carry to the bar of the House of Commons the resolutions adopted on primary, intermediate, and university education at the late Rotunda meeting in Dublin, in which a charter and endowment for the Roman Catholic University were once more claimed.

ST. RAPHAEL'S, BRISTOL.—This church, which has been closed since the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol withdrew the licence of the chaplain, the Rev. A. H. Ward, for not obeying certain requirements as to the mode of celebrating Divine worship, was re-opened on Sunday evening, when a service was performed by laymen in connection with a society recently established under the title of "St. Raphael's League." Upwards of 300 members of the league were present. The prayers were intoned by Dr. Marshall, of Clifton, and Dr. Swayne, of Clifton, afterwards read a homily founded on the text, "Charity thinketh no evil." Dr. Marshall and Dr. Swayne were attired in surplices and wore their collegiate hoods.

RITUALISM at BIRMINGHAM.—The *Birmingham Post* says that at the last Easter vestry meeting the parishioners of Holy Trinity, Bordesley, who object to the Ritualist practices carried on at the church, were successful in obtaining the election as people's warden of a member of the Church Association. This has been followed up by the commencement of legal proceedings in the form of a presentment to the Bishop of Worcester, under the Public Worship Regulation Act, complaining of a number of alleged illegal acts committed by the Rev. R. W. Enraght in his conduct of the services. The presentment is signed by Mr. Perkins, the people's warden, and other "aggrieved parishioners." The *Birmingham Post* believes this is the first proceeding of the kind which has taken place in the diocese.

SENTENCE AGAINST MR. MACKONOCHIE.—Lord Penzance gave judgment in the Court of Arches on Saturday in the proceedings which have been instituted against the Rev. A. H. Mackonochie, vicar of St. Alban's, Holborn, for disobedience to previous monitions of the Court. The judge said the defendant had been twice previously suspended, and therefore more stringent measures must now be taken. He suspended Mr. Mackonochie *ab officio et beneficio* for three years, and condemned him in the costs of the application. Mr. Mackonochie, in his sermon on Sunday, made no direct allusion to this judgment. The service was of the usual ornate character. It is said that an application to stay the execution of proceedings will be made to the Court of Queen's Bench, on the ground that Lord Penzance has no jurisdiction in the matter, the formalities in connection with his appointment of Dean of Arches not having been observed.

ALLEGED INTOLERANCE IN HESSE DARMSTADT.—A deputation from the Council of the Evangelical Alliance had an interview on Saturday with the Hon. Robert Bourke, M.P., at the Foreign Office, to inform Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the continued prosecution of Lutheran pastors and others in the Grand Duchy of Hesse Darmstadt for holding religious services in private houses and other places. Sir Harry Verney, President of the Alliance, introduced the deputation. The Rev. James Davis (Secretary) stated that painful attention was still being called, in this country and elsewhere, to events occurring in Hesse, awakening the sympathy of the friends of religious liberty, and that the Council, after protracted deliberation, had decided to present, by a deputation about to proceed to Darmstadt, a memorial to His Royal Highness the Grand Duke on the subject.

FATHER HYACINTHE'S LECTURES IN PARIS.—Father Hyacinthe gave the first of his course of four lectures at the Winter Circus on Sunday afternoon. The audience, though large, was less by one-third than fourteen months ago, when there was the novelty of his first appearance in Paris since his rupture with Rome, though, on the other hand, he is now free from the restriction then imposed by M. Jules Simon on his choice of subjects. On Sunday he spoke on Deism, which he distinguished from Theism as implying the denial of the possibility of revelation, whereas the latter was willing to be convinced of and to welcome one. He argued on moral, historical, and ethnological grounds that Deism could never be accepted by the French people, Protestantism being also out of the question, and that a reformed Catholicism was the only solution. He alluded to Voltaire, and, although not a disciple of his, believed that, after Luther and Calvin, he was an executor of Divine justice. The Father proposes to develop his theories in several subsequent lectures.

THE REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—"Presbyter Anglicanus" in the *Record* vigorously protests against the advice of one of his Evangelical brethren to intimate to their bishops that they have no sympathy with this new body. He says:—"While I should deeply regret the need of actively helping forward that movement, yet I must say under the disappointment which has been so long and patiently endured by congregations of English Churchmen in such places as Prittlewell and Littlehampton, I can but feel thankful that true-hearted members of the English Church can have some remedy without being driven into open and irrevocable Dissent. The kind of intimation I should like the Evangelical clergy and laity to make their bishops (*i.e.*, if it is of any use) is, that unless the bishops will manfully and courageously protect the faithful members of the Church of England from the Romanising practices and principles which have grown defiant under their ill-timed lenity (if not in some cases hardly-concealed sympathy), they may be assured that the movement headed by Bishop Gregg will become a power in the land, and hasten on a crisis which I for one most sincerely deplore."

We understand that Mr. Tegg's new work, entitled "Posts, Telegrams, and the Telephone," will shortly be published by Messrs. William Tegg and Co.

A COSTLY PICTURE.—The sale of a portion of the Novar collection of pictures formed by the late Mr. Hugh A. J. Munro took place at Messrs. Christie's Rooms on Saturday. The sale produced £44,522 17s.; but this does not include Raffaelle's Virgin with the Candelabra. The *Times* report of the proceedings says:—"After a round of applause, when the picture had been placed on the easel and the folding doors of the glass opened, Mr, Woods proceeded to say that for a picture of such importance and high value it was not expected that many persons could compete for its possession; and that, as he had stated at the opening of the sale, this was the only picture in the sale upon which any reserve had been placed. He was, therefore, instructed to offer it at 15,000 guineas. The naming of this large price was received with no small surprise, and the audience seemed to consider that this was a tolerably safe limit, beyond which there would be no further advance; but after a grave pause, amid the breathless suspense of his audience, the auctioneer, as if looking at some bidder before him, said, "Fifteen thousand five hundred guineas" to the surprise and astonishment of most persons. But no sooner had this surprise been got over than another announcement was given of 16,000 guineas amid quite a buzz of excitement, while several persons rose to look where the bidding came from. It was not from Mr. Burton, the Director of the National Gallery, for he was seen to remain from the first putting up of the picture a placid and silent spectator, and we were unable to discover where the advances came from. This state of wonderment was kept up while the auctioneer proceeded with perfect gravity to name prices increasing by five hundred guineas, pausing between each, till he arrived at 19,000 guineas, when he quietly said, "The picture is not being sold, gentlemen," and then, naming the last sum of 19,500 guineas, the hammer fell, and the auctioneer said, "The picture is bought in, gentlemen." There was a general rising and burst of mingled disappointment and excitement, with a few hisses, such as we never in many years' experience witnessed in these rooms. The general impression which we gathered from remarks on every side was that the 15,000 guineas first named was taken to be the reserve price, but it was now evident that this was not so, but that the real reserve was some sum above 19,500 guineas. On inquiry we found that Mr. Agnew did not make any bidding for the "Madonna dei Candelabri," and the presumption is that there was no *bonâ fide* advance over the 15,000 guineas at which it was put up. After the sale was over it became known among some of the many *virtuosi* who had assisted at this most interesting and remarkable of auctions that another "Madonna dei Candelabri" was in existence. The possessor of this picture had thought it right not to mention even the existence of this picture until after the Novar Raphael had been offered for sale. That condition having passed, in all probability he will feel at liberty to exhibit his "Madonna dei Candelabri," and to tell how he became possessed of it. The finder, who, though he happens to be a most capable connoisseur, admits frankly that he bought it for a very insignificant sum at an auction at Christie's as a "copy" of the picture, not being able to see it through the very dirty glass under which it was framed. Here, then, we must leave this most curious and interesting discovery. "St. Helena, the Vision of the Invention of the Cross," by Paul Veronese, was bought by the authorities, of the National Gallery for 3,300 guineas.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1878.

THE WEEK.

The Congress of European Plenipotentiaries, which is to commence its sittings at Berlin to-morrow week, will be an imposing assembly, and will have to settle problems far more intricate than those which engaged the attention of the diplomatists who met in Paris in 1856 after the Crimean war. It is expected that Prince Bismarck will preside, and that, should circumstances prevent Prince Gortschakoff from undertaking so serious a responsibility, Count Schouvaloff, who has gone to St. Petersburg for final instructions, will act as the chief representative of Russian interests. The other principal Plenipotentiaries of the signatory Powers will be Count Andrassy for Austria, M. Waddington for France, Signor Corti for Italy, and Savfet Pasha for Turkey. The nomination of both Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury, together with Lord Odo Russell, to represent England on the occasion will probably have the effect of inducing other Powers to send second Plenipotentiaries of more than ordinary distinction. It is believed that the Congress, besides examining the provisions of the San Stefano Treaty, and bringing them into harmony with the Treaties of 1856 and 1870, will endeavour to settle the Eastern Question on a comprehensive scale. "It may be confidently expected," says the *Journal de St. Petersbourg*, "that the labours of the Plenipotentiaries will end, not in a mere temporary patching up, but in a series of arrangements founded on a consideration of the real causes which have produced the repeated crises in the East. The result will, it is predicted, be worthy of the European Areopagus, will give Russia no reason to regret the blood she has shed for the emancipation of Eastern Christians, and will discourage only the enemies of general prosperity and gradual progress."

The question how far the secondary States interested in the ultimate settlement will be represented at Berlin, depends upon the decision of the Congress itself. Roumania, Servia, Greece, and possibly Montenegro, will no doubt claim to be heard, and in some shape allowed to state their case. It is expected at Constantinople that the claim of Greece to annex Thessaly, Epirus, and Crete will be favourably considered, and at Bucharest, that Russia will be satisfied with the recovery of a portion of Roumanian Bessarabia, leaving that portion of the territory which adjoins the mouth of the Danube in possession of Roumania.

But whatever may be the new adjustments of territory agreed upon at Berlin, the success of the negotiations for the assembling of the Congress has created great consternation among the Turkish Pashas, who had hoped by means of England and the good offices of Mr. Layard to have recovered at least a considerable portion of the Ottoman territory ceded to Russia. Constantinople continues to be the focus of incessant intrigues, the aim and result of which are alike incomprehensible. The Grand Vizier of a week, Ruchdi Pasha, has been superseded, and his place filled by Savfet Pasha Mahmoud Damad, the Sultan's brother-in-law, an unprincipled man steeped in corruption, has suddenly been cashiered, and Mustapha Pasha appointed Minister of War. The Sultan himself seems to be a prey to periodical panics, if not the victim of insanity. He trusts no one, and the leading generals, Osman Pasha and Mehemet Ali, are under suspicion of being inimical to his rule. Thus at the moment of the meeting of Congress, we have evidence that the Turkish governing, or misgoverning, classes are the same as ever—selfish, grasping, incapable, and intriguing, even when their country is passing through a most serious crisis.

The second dastardly attack on the life of the Emperor William, though happily without a fatal result, has inflicted wounds upon His Majesty which are the occasion of no little anxiety. Several of the small shot have been extracted, but two of the pellets near the main artery of the wrist will be allowed to remain that they may be expelled by the efforts of nature. No fever has supervened, and according to yesterday evening's report the Emperor's bodily health keeps up, and he enjoys rest and nourishment. By way of precaution, the Crown Prince, who refuses at present to be appointed Regent, will be invested with partial powers. The assassin, Nobiling, who shot himself after the criminal act, still remains alive, though not likely to survive, and he has confessed that the attempt was the result of a conspiracy, and that he was chosen by drawing lots. The German people have been stupefied by this second attack on a popular and kind-hearted sovereign towards the close of his long and successful reign. "The country," says a telegram from Berlin, "literally trembles with the shock, and the disgrace is deeply felt everywhere." It is probable that the measures proposed to be taken against the Democratic-Socialist organisations, which were lately rejected by the German Parliament, will now be revived, and that the Government will take action with or without the sanction of the Legislature.

Amid the agitation and apprehension caused by this second attack on the Emperor, the calamity to the German ironclad in the English Channel, which occurred a few days before, and resulted in the foundering of the Grosser Kurfürst and nearly 300 lives, has been well-nigh forgotten in Germany. There is no doubt that the catastrophe was caused by the mistake of the steersman on board the König Wilhelm. The serious injury sustained by both ironclads in this collision illustrates the perils which will be incurred by these costly monsters of the deep in future naval engagements.

Amid great difficulties the Irish members have succeeded in securing a debate in the House of Commons on The O'Conor Don's vague motion, affirming that the unsatisfactory condition of Irish education requires the immediate attention of Parliament, with a view of extending more generally and equally the benefits of such education. The debate, which commenced on Friday, was chiefly remarkable for the speech of Mr. Lowe, who said that what Ireland wanted was not merely improved University education, but good secondary schools. The right hon. gentleman renewed his former suggestion that, as the endowment of a Roman Catholic University was an impossibility, the best solution of the difficulty would be a university which would have no connection with teaching, but would merely examine and give degrees and prizes; thus avoiding the denominational difficulty. We are sorry that the Irish members scorned this feasible proposal, which would no doubt be highly distasteful to the Vatican, which moves the Irish bishops, who move the Irish members. The debate, which was brought to an abrupt conclusion by the sad and sudden death of Mr. Wykeham-Martin in the library of the House, was renewed on Monday, and The O'Conor Don's resolution was rejected by 200 to 67 votes.

One of the hardest conflicts of the session yet impends. The Government, wise in their generation, and not unmindful of the general election that "looms in the distance," are resolved to set themselves right with the farmers. A few days ago the country gentlemen met Sir Stafford Northcote in caucus, and urged that the Cattle Plague Bill should be pushed forward at all costs, even if the County Administration Bill should go. Well, the obedient Chancellor of the Exchequer has actually withdrawn the latter measure, and the former having been passed by the House of Lords, the tug-of-war will soon commence in the Commons under the auspices of Mr. Forster, who was one of the members of the committee which last year inquired into the whole subject, and indeed protested against the conclusions of the majority. The object of the Cattle Diseases Bill is to extirpate the contagious diseases which have for some years past decimated our flocks and herds, especially the foot-and-mouth disease. In respect to home-bred animals there are stringent regulations having that object in view, but a good deal of latitude is allowed to the Privy Council in enforcing them. But the bill allows no option in respect to foreign fat cattle. They are all to be slaughtered without option at the port of debarkation. In fact, the bill virtually destroys without adequate reason an important import trade. Last year some 97,000 foreign cattle were brought into our ports, of which only about a dozen were found to be diseased. On this flimsy pretext not less than one-fifth of the meat consumed in the United Kingdom is to be arbitrarily cut off, at a time when animal food has attained the highest price known for the last forty years. Foreign competition is to be crushed out for the benefit of stock-breeders and farmers, and at the cost of the consuming public. It is this Protectionist bill that Mr. Forster is prepared to oppose, by moving as an amendment on the second reading:—"That, in the opinion of this House, the slaughter at ports of landing of all fat cattle from the Continent would restrict the supply and increase the cost of food, and therefore should not be made compulsory in all circumstances by Act of Parliament." As the bill will come on soon after Whitsuntide, it behoves all who resent this uncalled-for revival of Protection in respect to animal food to be up and stirring.

A singular fatality rests upon all efforts to put in force ecclesiastical law against Ritualist excesses. It is true that Lord Penzance has actually suspended Mr. Mackonochie for three months. But that clergyman is prepared to contest his lordship's right to discharge the functions of Dean of the Arches, on the ground that, though he was appointed by the Primate, his patent has not been confirmed by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and that he has not taken the necessary oaths. There is, therefore, a considerable chance that Mr. Mackonochie, like Mr. Tooth, will prove too strong for the law. The Rev. J. Edwards, of Prestbury, has also shown that it is possible to defy Lord Penzance with impunity. He was sentenced to imprisonment, but some technical flaw in the proceedings against him has been discovered, and the time for obtaining an order for his incarceration has expired. All this will encourage the Ritualists and greatly strengthen their hands.

Following in the wake of the United Presbyterians, the Free Church General Assembly, which met last week in Glasgow, had a long discussion on Scotch disestablishment. The result was a great discomfiture not only of Dr. Begg, but of Sir Henry Moncrieff. The leader of the Free Church malcontents received only fifty votes—one-half the number given last year in favour of the maintenance of the Establishment; Sir Henry, who wants delay till he sees the prospect of a settlement satisfactory to himself, got 134 votes; while no less than 400 members of the Assembly gave their support to Dr. Adam, who proposed a clear and uncompromising resolution in favour of disestablishment. The result is said to have created great perturbation in the Church of Scotland Synod, the sittings of which took place simultaneously in Edinburgh. Some facts mentioned elsewhere show how little need there is for that preliminary inquiry which Mr. W. Holms insists upon. As our correspondent shows in another column, the Free Church not only raises 200,000*l.* a year more for home purposes than the Established Church—giving to each minister a minimum income of 200*l.*—but supports more extensive and costly foreign missions. No Commission is required to discover these facts. But the greater part of the sitting of the Free Assembly was taken up with the so-called heresy cases, especially that of Professor Smith, of Aberdeen. It is probable that the proceedings against this accomplished divine will create very little sympathy south of the Tweed, and we are glad to observe that Dr. Rainy showed some signs of liberality in dealing with the charges against Mr. Smith, who was partially acquitted. The course taken by the Assembly seems rather adverse to true biblical criticism; so rigid are their rules of interpretation and so narrow the latitude allowed to their clergy. We should be glad to hear that Professor Smith is for the future left unmolested in his learned researches.

SKETCHES FROM THE GALLERY.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY NIGHT.

The Select Committee on Public Business is approaching the conclusion of its labours. In the meanwhile Obstruction in the House of Commons is growing increasingly audacious and systematic. In prospect of the sitting on Thursday last, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made a calculation which showed that, whilst six nights had been spent on the Civil Service Estimates, only thirty-three votes had been agreed to, leaving yet a hundred to be dealt with. At the rate of progress established it will require eighteen nights to dispose of these; and there being just eighteen Government nights before the time when the House begins to think of the holidays, everything was happily arranged, supposing the whole duties of Parliament were to pass the Civil Service Estimates. But it has other things to do; and in sober truth the arithmetical statement which the Chancellor of the Exchequer made on Thursday brought home with startling force the position in which the House was placed by the obstinacy and recklessness of a few of its members.

Poor Sir Stafford, who shrinks from strong measures, as an over-indulgent mother might shrink from the probably highly desirable process of castigating a recalcitrant child, followed up this statement by what was an eloquent evidence of impotency. Instead of proposing anything by way of docking the privileges of the Obstructionists, he mildly announced that a careful selection of the estimates had been made. All that were likely to raise objections in the minds of Mr. Parnell and his friends had been postponed, and therefore he hoped they might make a fair night's progress. There was no certainty that this appeal would touch the heart of Mr. Parnell, and H.M.'s Ministers were agreeably surprised when that distinguished personage rose and announced that, "as he did not feel much interest in the votes that were to be brought forward, he would allow the House to get supply." But, on pain of withdrawing his consent, he insisted upon delivering a long speech, in which he endeavoured to show that, so far from obstructing the business of Parliament or injuring the affairs of the nation, he was the best friend to both; and that, next to the interests of Ireland, he had most closely at heart the welfare of Great Britain. It was amusing to watch hon. members on the Conservative benches whilst Mr. Parnell was making a speech which was a masterpiece of polished insolence. They felt that the hon. member for Meath was dragging his coat across the arena, anxious that someone would tread upon it, and so give him an occasion for an affray. Much anxiety was displayed on the Ministerial bench with respect to the Admiral, who could with difficulty be restrained from emitting one of his stupendous yawns, coughing one of his significant coughs, or otherwise indicating his infinite contempt and distaste for persons who presumed to differ from Her Majesty's Ministers. But the Admiral was kept in order, and the patience of every member being equal to the demands upon it, Mr. Parnell finished with what he described as the necessity for moving an adjournment.

Thus the House was in committee by five o'clock, and Sir H. Selwin-Ibbetson beamed with the prospect of getting a large number of votes together. But it soon became apparent that, whatever may have been Mr. Parnell's intention, it was impossible for him and his friends to refrain from obstruction. Matters went on quietly enough for the first two or three hours, and though progress was slow still votes were agreed to. By ten o'clock, dinner being comfortably disposed of, and the evening having agreeably set in, Mr. O'Donnell raised a diversion by pleasantly referring to the recent inquiry into the McCarthy case as "a sham." Mr. Raikes took prompt objection to the use of this offensive word, and thus opened the floodgates of talk. Mr. Parnell, with] evident satisfaction throwing off the comparative restraint he had placed upon himself, forthwith opened fire upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Nothing can better indicate the relentless character of Obstruction in the House of Commons than the manner in which Sir Stafford Northcote is attacked by Mr. Parnell. The main fault of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as leader of the House lies in his positive inability to take the offensive. He is the mildest-mannered man that ever led the House, and he appears therefore a fit object for the contumely of Mr. Parnell, to whom it is well known he has in private, as in public, shown himself solicitously courteous. On Thursday Mr. Parnell read the right hon. gentleman a severe lecture on his occasional absence from committee of supply, an accusation which the Chancellor of the Exchequer meekly bore, as well he might in the presence of a few hundred gentlemen who know something of the strain upon his energies, seeing that he is Chancellor of the Exchequer, leader of the House, and chairman of at least one committee, and sits for several hours during the week. After an interval of half an hour between the first row raised by Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Parnell promptly backing him up, there arose a second. Mr. O'Donnell having intimated his opinion that the statement of the chairman of committees was "incorrect," the Chancellor of the Exchequer was goaded into remonstrating against this breach of Parliamentary order, but, with characteristic weakness, the powers that be did not carry their objection to the length of insisting upon Mr. O'Donnell withdrawing his offensive remark, and he has the satisfaction of reflecting that he has succeeded in overriding one of the strictest rules of the House.

Friday was marked by something that partook of the character of a tragedy, and which threw so deep a gloom over the House that it was found necessary immediately to adjourn. Mr. Wykeham-Martin, the member for Rochester, being seated in the library writing letters previous to taking his seat in the House, was suddenly stricken with death, and died within a few minutes of the attack. Already members were aware of the death of Mr. Russell Gurney, which had appeared earlier in the day, and when question time arrived, Mr. W. H. Smith had the painful duty of confirming the intelligence of the running down of the German ironclad with a loss of upwards of 300 lives. The Irish members had obtained the night for the discussion of University Education in Ireland, and though there was a strong desire to have an adjournment, the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not interfere. But after the space of an hour and a half it became clear that it was impossible under the accumulated gloom to continue the work of the House. Many members went home without waiting for an adjournment. Those who remained sat whispering to each other, unmindful of the speeches that were being made. It was felt that the initiative should come from the Irish members; and whilst others were discussing the matter and arranging who should make the motion, Sir George Bowyer, seizing the opportunity, which for once in his life secured for him a respectful hearing in the House, took the words out of the mouth of the hon. gentleman opposite and moved the adjournment. This was at once acceded to, and the House went home after the briefest and the gloomiest sitting witnessed for many years.

To-night the momentous announcement, so long delayed, was made in both Houses, and the meeting of a Congress is placed beyond doubt. It was expected that such a statement would be made; and, probably because the conclusion was foregone, there was very little anticipatory excitement, and neither House was nearly so full as it has been at earlier and less important stages of the prolonged drama. The proceedings were conducted strictly according to fashion, and, with the exception of a little jest which Lord Beaconsfield managed to introduce for the amusement of their lordships, nothing is to be gained by reading the reports of the proceedings in the Houses. When Lord Beaconsfield first went to the House of Lords, their lordships were inclined to receive with polite frigidity his attempts to be jocose. But now they are as completely under his domination as were the Commons, and are prepared to laugh consumedly whenever his lordship cracks his little joke. That of to-night was not of first-rate quality, and was, as is too frequently the case, based upon the misrepresentation of an opponent's meaning. Lord Granville said that the absence of two such important personages on a mission, with respect to which they were vested with autocratic powers, would reduce the remainder of the Cabinet to the position of mere cyphers. Lord Beaconsfield demurred to this, and playfully suggested that the absence of two such important personages as himself and Lord Salisbury would rather increase the importance of those left behind. Earl Granville took exception to the selection of the Prime Minister as a Plenipotentiary on various technical grounds. But of course the actual objection is that Lord Beaconsfield has already too successfully assumed the powers of an autocrat, and that this unprecedented departure from Constitutional usage was another step in that direction. But of course neither in the Lords nor in the Commons did the leaders of the Opposition do more than hint dislike. In the Commons the greater part of the evening was occupied in discussion of Irish University Education, introduced by The O'Conor Don, and interrupted on Friday by the untoward death of Mr. Wykeham-Martin.

Correspondence.

THE REV. T. GREEN ON THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—My letter in your issue of May 22 was confined to an explanation of what I said in the late Congregational Union debate on a point which was imperfectly stated in your report of it. On this the Rev. T. Green raises a discussion which really involves the whole question of the action of the Union—a discussion which he might raise as well on any of the speeches which were delivered in support of that action, or on any of the arguments contained in the speeches, as on the few words of mine which he selects for criticism. I do not know how to deal with his letter—partly because I infer from your kindly notice of my pamphlet some weeks ago, that your columns are not open for a general discussion of the question which has agitated the Congregational body, and partly because, even if they were, I am not prepared to embark on an undertaking so large and indefinite, and which would require the repetition of much that I have said already.

As to the point which Mr. Green has selected for comment, I confess I find it difficult to discover the force or bearing of his remarks on the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of the Union. Mr. Green does not question the correctness of my statement as to the actual condition of the French Protestant Church. Nor do I understand him to question my opinion as to the impossibility of two such opposites and irreconcileables as the French Orthodox and the French Rationalistic co-existing in amicable communion in any voluntary church. But (*a*) The Congregational Union is not a church. Granted! (*b*) The Congregational Union is not co-extensive with Independency. Granted! What then? May such irreconcileables as Orthodoxy and Rationalism co-exist in amicable communion in the Congregational Union because it is not a *church*? And is it not competent for the Congregational Union, because it is not a *church*, to say, by resolution, that such a "communion" would be inconsistent with the very basis of its existence? Is a "church" the only society that has a right to determine its own conditions of membership, and to pronounce a judgment on what is inconsistent with them? The Congregational Union has *not* "taken on itself the functions of a church." It has only exercised the rights of every voluntary association.

Some may not know what the Congregational Union really is. But its "constitution," published annually in the "Congregational Year Book," supplies the information. "The Union shall consist of representative members, honorary members, and associates." The representative members are delegates appointed by Congregational churches. The honorary members are retired pastors, who are elected by open vote of the Assembly. The associates are pastors and members of Congregational churches, who are not delegated, but who become personal members on a money payment. The privileges of the last of these classes are limited; and the first of these classes is evidently the most important. There are few Congregational churches in England, probably, which are not represented, either directly by the first class, or indirectly by the last. Among the "objects" of the Union, the first stated is this—"To uphold and extend Evangelical religion, primarily in connection with churches of the Congregational order." And what the recent Assembly of the Union has done is neither more nor less than to declare that they regard the "Evangelical Religion," for the upholding and extending of which it exists, "an essential condition of religious communion in Congregational churches." This is the terrible deed which, we are told, "has opened a new door upon a region bristling with dangers"—in fact, the first step towards the "suicide," speedy or tardy, to which the Union is being "tempted."

Mr. Green speaks of "an artificially-stimulated panic," but who or what has artificially stimulated it, I cannot divine. Certainly not my pamphlet, which, I think, has done something to allay fear or panic, and to reassure brethren as to the real character of Congregationalism, and the grounds on which it is entitled to separate itself from Rationalistic ministries without wrong either to individuals or to churches.

I am, yours truly,

May 31, 1878. JOHN KENNEDY.

OUR OLD BOYS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—May I beg the insertion of the following, offering, as it does, to those who have benefited by

our benevolent institutions an example worthy of imitation. The writer, now a prosperous gentleman, encloses a cheque for 25*l.*, with a request that his name may be entered as an annual subscriber of two guineas, and says:—

"I am an old Lewisham boy, and have intended for years past to become a subscriber. I fine myself for neglecting to do so in the amount of cheque enclosed, and will attend to the subscription if you will kindly remind me at the proper season.

"It is a great gratification to me to be in a position to acknowledge this obligation to the dear old *alma mater*, which has my best wishes for its continued success."

Of the 600 boys who, since its foundation, have passed through the school, there must be many living who, if not equally prosperous with the writer of the above, are more or less able to help, and on whom, if so, a moral obligation surely rests, to acknowledge, and in some measure repay, the benefits they have received.

To all such I venture to present the example of the writer, and to say "Go and do thou likewise."

I am, sir, yours truly,

JOSIAH VINEY, President.
Congregational School for the Education
June 3. of the Sons of Ministers.

Religious and Denominational News.

THE FRIENDS' YEARLY MEETING.

(SECOND NOTICE.)

The proceedings of the Yearly Meeting were continued until Friday last, when they concluded, after ten days' duration. Amongst the further business transacted was a general review of the society's annual expenditure, which was considered to be very small in amount as compared with that of other denominations. A special subscription of 2,000*l.* was requested for the coming year's expenses, with an intimation from some members that 3,000*l.* might be required, on account of the expenses of South African and American deputations.

Mr. THEODORE HARRIS, of Leighton Buzzard, who has just returned from South Africa, gave the meeting a very interesting account of the missionary labours there recently undertaken by him, in conjunction with Mr. Isaac Sharp, of Middlesborough, and Mr. Langley Kitching, of Leeds. The party had been received with the utmost kindness by Christians of all denominations in the Cape Colony. Sir Bartle Frere, the Governor, had given them free access to all the prisons and lunatic asylums, with a request that they would prepare a report for the Government on any improvements which might appear to them to be needful in those institutions; the Anglican Bishop of Cape Town had given them letters of introduction to all the Colonial clergy; whilst the leading men of the Dutch Reformed Church had everywhere received them with cordiality and openness. The Moravians also were fully prepared to welcome the party, having heard from their brethren of the acceptable labours of Mr. Sharp amongst their confraternity in Greenland and Labrador. At one of the South African stations, Mr. Sharp was welcomed by the wife of a Moravian missionary there, who had previously been the wife of a Moravian visited by him in Greenland. Her former husband having died, she had again entered the married state, but in the warmer regions of the far South. Altogether the accounts given to the Yearly Meeting of the success of the African Deputation were so satisfactory, that it was cheerfully and promptly resolved to contribute any further expenses needful for the further labours of Mr. Sharp and his companions. Mr. Harris has generously contributed 300*l.* towards the expenses of the delegation.

The divided conditions of the "Western Yearly Meeting" of Friends in Indiana claimed further serious attention, and it was decided to send a deputation thither from the English Society with a hope of restoring harmony. The delegates appointed are Mr. J. Bevan Braithwaite, of London, Mr. George Tatham, of Leeds, Mr. Richard Littleboy, of Newport Pagnel, and Mr. Joseph John Dymond, of Bradford. The exceeding energy and go-ahead impulsiveness of the American Friends was evinced by a curious illustration during the London gathering last week. On Friday morning, at a large prayer meeting of the Friends, one of the American ministers present rose, towards the end of the exercises, and announced, "Now then, Friends, we have thirty minutes left, or just time for *thirty* prayers and speeches." English Friends are not so rapid in their exercises, but rather desire to cherish a more deliberate and reverent solemnity on such occasions.

A report was read from North Carolina informing the London Meeting that their contribution of 1,500*l.* last year had been of great use in promoting the higher education of young men for teachers in the Southern States.

On Tuesday evening, Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., delivered, by request, an interesting address on Peace, in which he called upon the younger Friends in particular to continue the anti-war labours of their fathers and of such honoured members of their body as the late Joseph Sturge, Joseph Pease, Robert Charleton, and J. Tregelles Price. This address made a very favourable impression, and elicited much approving comment both at the time and subsequently.

Mr. Edmund Sturge, on the part of the Anti-Slavery Society, also availed himself of an opportunity of inviting the increased interest of the Friends in that department of philanthropy. He stated that several hundred thousand human beings annually perish, chiefly in East Africa, through the continuing horrors of slavery in those regions. He, however, informed the meeting that, in great measure owing to the Parliamentary Committee moved for by the late Mr. Charles Gilpin, the coast transport and Zanzibar slave traffic had greatly diminished. The Meeting acknowledged, in emphatic terms, its deep sense of the value of the long-sustained labours of Mr. Sturge and his colleagues, especially of Mr. Joseph Cooper, in this important department of beneficence. It was remarked also, that such services in rescuing the bodies of men from slavery and degradation, also raised their minds and souls, and was a true ministry of God. And it was added that such services, together with the kindred labours to deliver mankind from intemperance, disease, and pauperism, might be as much a ministry of the Gospel as any preaching from pulpits or platforms.

One of the most animated discussions of the Yearly Meeting arose out of the question of the province of the police and the magistracy—a topic brought forward in a valuable address on the Peace question, prepared by a committee at the request of the assembly. Some of the speakers considered that there was no logical position for the Church to take, as a *Christian* body, in advocating peace amongst other Christians, but that of entire faith in God for protection, although in the kingdoms of this world a policy of expediency might be looked for. Some Friends also spoke of the difficulty of drawing a line of demarcation between the defensive violence of a policeman acting under magisterial orders, as in a riot or a burglary, and the similar defensive violence of the soldier, acting under the orders of the State, against the disorder and murder introduced by a foreign invader. But the preponderating expression of the Meeting was that social order needed the services of both police and magistracy, as having for their distinctive object the preservation of life and property, whilst soldiery, even in resisting invasion, were destroyers of life.

Interesting and encouraging reports were received from Mr. James Long, the Friends' agent in the distribution of subscriptions to the war victims in Turkey. It appeared that, through his exertions and persuasion, both of the contending parties in Bulgaria had spared the school-houses and other buildings erected by the contributions of the Friends.

The Yearly Meeting concluded with religious exhortations and prayers.

The Rev. James Legge, on his removal to Caterham, after a pastorate at Hanley of nearly thirteen years, has been presented by the congregation with a purse containing 100 guineas, a set of Wedgwood vases, and an address expressive of appreciation and esteem, bearing 190 signatures.

MILE-END-ROAD CHAPEL.—The seventh anniversary of the pastorate of the Rev. D. M. Jenkins was celebrated on May 26, when sermons were preached by the Revs. S. Minton, M.A., and Dr. Aveling. On May 28 a public tea-meeting was held, at which an elegant timepiece was presented to the pastor by the church and congregation, and a davenport to the pastor's wife. From the report presented it appeared that 286 members had been added to the church, and the Sunday-school increased from 250 to 520. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. W. Marshall, J. Brierley, A. Strawbridge, and several of the deacons.

BEDFORD UNION OF INDEPENDENT AND BAPTIST CHURCHES.—The annual meeting of this association was held at Bedford on the 29th ult. The Rev. G. S. Barrett, B.A., of Norwich, preached in the morning at Howard Chapel, and the Rev. H. Platten, of Birmingham, in the evening in Bunyan Meeting. At the public meeting in the afternoon (the Rev. J. Brown in the chair), addresses were given by the Rev. J. C. Burnett, R. Hoskin, J. Tuckwell, Messrs. G. W. Spong, T. Bowick, G. Carruthers, and the secretary (the Rev. W. P. Irving). A resolution was passed expressive of sympathy with the Countess Russell in her bereavement, and recording the obligation felt by the Nonconformist churches for the services which, through a long and honourable life, were rendered by the late earl to the cause of civil and religious liberty.

OPEN-AIR MISSION.—The twenty-fifth annual meeting of this mission was held on Monday evening at the Royal Academy of Music, in Hanover-square, under the presidency of Sir John Kennaway, Bart., M.P. Mr. John MacGregor, the hon. secretary, read a paper full of facts and figures recounting the history of the society during the twenty-five years of its existence. He was followed by Mr. John Kirk, the secretary, who read the report for the past year, showing the income to be 1,206*l.*, and the balance in hand 23*l.* The number of members was 344, and the number of stations regularly sustained in London, over 100. The large number of 637,460 tracts had been distributed, and 289 special visits paid to races, fairs, &c. The speakers afterwards were the Rev. Thomas Champness, the Rev. A. J. D. D'Orsey, Mr. Joseph Weatherley, and T. A. Denny. Next Sunday, 185 clergymen and ministers have promised to bring the subject of open-air preaching before their congregations.

IPSWICH.—The service in connection with the recognition of the Rev. W. Scott (late of Lower Edmonton), as the pastor of Tacket-street Chapel, Ipswich, was held on May 22. E. Goddard, Esq. (a deacon and treasurer of the church), presided. The attendance was very large, including many of the Nonconformist ministers of the town and district. The Rev. T. M. Morris (Baptist) offered prayer. A deputation from the church at Edmonton was present, and addressed the meeting, referring to the high sense in which Mr. Scott's labours were regarded by his late church at Edmonton, and the deep regret felt at his removal, although recognising that his call to Ipswich was one that could not be questioned. The chairman briefly stated the manner in which Mr. Scott had been brought before the church, and the circumstances which led to his invitation to the pastorate at Tacket-street. The Rev. J. Wayman, of Blackpool, Lancashire, bore testimony to Mr. Scott's work at Manchester prior to his removal to Edmonton, and congratulated him and the Ipswich friend on the union that had taken place. The Rev. S. Hebditch, of Clapton Park, commended Mr. Scott to their earnest prayers and sympathies, and referred to the great generosity and kindness the church had shown to the widow of their late pastor. The Rev. T. Wickham Tozer, on behalf of the Congregationalists, and the Rev. T. M. Morris, on behalf of the Baptist and other Nonconformist churches, and E. Grimwade, Esq., on behalf of the Suffolk Congregational Union, welcomed very heartily and affectionately Mr. Scott to Ipswich and to the county. After a very brief but feeling response by Mr. Scott to the kind welcome he had received from all, the meeting was closed with prayer and the benediction.

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.—The anniversary of this society was held on Monday week in the hall, Bethnal-green, Mr. Robert Baxter in the chair. From the report read by the secretary it appeared last year 400*l.* had been received towards the reduction of the debt on the building, which is utilised for evangelistic work all the year round, the reading-room of which last year had been used by 2,000 readers. To the library had been added twenty volumes, the gift of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. The agents of the society had paid religious visits to the workhouses of Shoreditch, Bethnal-green, St. George's-in-the-East, St. Luke's, Clerkenwell, Holborn, Highgate, and Poplar, and have thus 6,000 people under their care, and two of the chaplains bore testimony to the benefits of the labours of the agents of the society. In all the houses during the last winter there had been the usual treats, which the inmates much enjoyed. More than 2,000 of the lowest lodging-houses had also been visited. Sunday morning breakfasts had also been given, and treats for the children of the district had also been provided. Three hundred and ninety open-air meetings had been held, attended by 60,000 hearers. There had been besides a tract distribution of 290,000. Amongst the speakers were—the Chairman, Mr. F. Bevan, the Rev. R. C. Billing, the Rev. J. W. Tyler, and others. The following resolution was adopted:—"That this meeting, being aware of the very unsettled condition of the minds of many professing Christians in relation to the Gospel of the Grace of God, enjoin upon the agents of this society a steady adherence to those truths which have been preached by the Christian community during the past century in their spheres of labour, and pray that the great Head of the Church by his Spirit may uphold those engaged in the work and further raise up other faithful servants of the Lord Jesus Christ to perpetuate the agency."

SUSSEX HOME MISSIONARY AND COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—The spring meetings were held at Petworth on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 28 and 29. On the former day the affairs of the Union occupied the attention of the ministers and delegates, and in the evening a public meeting was held, presided over by the Rev. J. R. Wilson, M.A., when admirable addresses were delivered by the Revs. H. Rogers, Petworth; W. Stallybrass, London; J. Rhys Evans, Brighton; and E. Storrow, secretary to the association; and Messrs. Crick and Tuck, evangelists of the society. On Wednesday morning a public conference was held, presided over by the Rev. H. Rogers, when two excellent papers were read introductory to consideration of the subjects to which they related. "Congregationalism, its witness to our own time," by the Rev. A. Reed, B.A., of St. Leonards, and "How can the Christian life of the members of our churches be elevated?" by the Rev. C. R. Howell, of Hastings. Since the annual meeting last October the following ministers have settled in the county:—The Rev. C. Lankester, at Preston, Brighton; Rev. T. Sherratt, at Uckfield; Rev. T. A. Saville, at Rye. Rev. J. P. Hutchinson leaves Crawley for Bagnor; Rev. A. Warner, Henfield for Romsey; and the Rev. W. Gooby, Cuckfield, on account of ill-health. The following resolution relative to the Eastern Question was proposed by D. Friend, Esq., of Brighton, seconded by the Rev. R. Hamilton, and adopted:—

That this meeting of the Sussex Home Missionary Society and County Association begs to express its high approval of the course pursued by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, the Right Hon. John Bright, and others, in the interests of peace, and cherish the hope that their persistent efforts in this behalf will be crowned with large and lasting success.

The association has nine evangelists and three evangelistic pastors in the county, and gives aid to several new and weak churches and places supplied by laymen out of an income of nearly 1,200*l.* per annum.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The invitations to the Congress have now been issued from Berlin, and that Tuesday next, the 11th of June, is the date fixed for its assembling. The *Morning Post* states that Lord Beaconsfield is, with Lord Salisbury and Lord Odo Russell, to represent Great Britain, and that the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, with a considerable staff, intend to leave England on Thursday, and will probably go by sea to Hamburg, in one of Her Majesty's ships, with perhaps an escort.

A telegram from Vienna says:—"The unexpected news that Lord Beaconsfield himself is to attend with Lord Salisbury has excited here the most lively satisfaction, being regarded as boding well for a successful termination of the Congress. On the part of Austria, as you know, Baron Haymerle, Ambassador in Italy, will accompany Count Andrassy. For France it is supposed that M. de St. Vallier, the resident Ambassador at Berlin, will second M. Waddington, as M. D'Oubril is supposed to be destined as second Plenipotentiary at the side of Count Schouvaloff. Italy likewise seems to contemplate making the resident Ambassador at the Court of Berlin second Plenipotentiary, Count Corti acting as the first; while it is understood that Herr von Bülow will assist Prince Bismarck. As to the mode of discussion, the announcement of the *Agence Russe* that the Congress will only have one sitting, determine the bases of peace, sign the treaty, and make arrangements for carrying into effect the details by a Conference of Ambassadors in Constantinople, is regarded as perhaps too expeditious. That a certain division of labour in committees to work out various questions of detail may be resorted to, as was the case in the Conference at Constantinople, and that some sort of complementary work by the Ambassadors at the Porte for carrying into effect the stipulations of the Congress will be found necessary, is, indeed, very probable; but in this particular instance, where so much depends on these very details, it is not believed that it will be sufficient for Congress to confine itself merely to settling the bases of peace, leaving the rest to a Conference of Ambassadors at Stamboul."

It seems quite decided that Prince Gortschakoff, whose state of health is still the same, will not go to the Congress.

The Russian Imperial family have left St. Petersburg for Tsarkoe Selo. General Ignatieff has left for Kieff on leave of absence.

The Commissioners sent by the Porte to investigate the causes of the rising in the Rhodope mountains have returned to Constantinople. They report to the Government that 30,000 well-armed insurgents occupy impregnable positions, and that the Russian forces acting against them find themselves powerless and stand upon the defensive. The insurgent leaders, in their replies to the Commissioners, stated that they could place no confidence in the Russians, who were powerless to repress the excesses of the Bulgarians.

A Conservative daily paper has published a description of some of the Indian troops at Malta—the 31st Bengal Native Infantry, as seen by its own correspondent. "Good soldiers"! one of their British officers said with pride; "there is hardly one there who has not committed his justifiable homicide." Some of the same corps are further described as "semi-civilised barbarians, with bloodshot, wolfish eyes, furtively darting looks hither and thither, and having the quick, stealthy gait of the panther." These are the gentry on whose military virtues the Prime Minister would rely not only for the maintenance of the Empire but for its extension.

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* states that Roumania and Servia are endeavouring to obtain the consent of the Powers to their admission to the Congress, and that if that consent should be given Montenegro and Greece would also claim admission. Austria, however, it is added, would probably not consent to meet Servia, and certainly not Montenegro, on the footing of independent States. Austria's views as to the San Stefano Treaty were explained on Friday by Count Andrassy to the Delegations. He said that what he desired was a real peace, and not an arrangement that would entail fresh complications. Austria had no desire to obstruct the development of the Christian populations, but in the delimitation of the small neighbouring States her natural communications with the East must not be severed.

A Blue Book has been issued by the Foreign Office containing correspondence respecting the insurrections in Thessaly and Epirus. It contains 233 telegrams and despatches, extending from Feb. 11, 1878, to May 15. On April 9 Lord Salisbury wrote to Mr. Wyndham, requesting him to assure the Greek Government that Her Majesty's Government were prepared to exert all their influence to prevent the absorption into a Slav State of any Greek population; but to represent to them that a continuance of insurrectionary movements in the Greek provinces was the surest mode of bringing about such a calamity. The Greeks, his lordship added, would "best consult their own interests by remaining absolutely quiescent pending the decision of Europe." Consul Blunt had an interview with the insurgent chiefs on April 23, and they were anxious to get an assurance from England that if they laid down their arms their cause should not be injured. To this request Lord Salisbury replied on April 25 by telegraph that "Mr. Blunt may be authorised to assure them that the Hellenic cause will not be injured by their acceding to the advice of Her Majesty's Government, and that England will endeavour to secure a full and favourable hearing for Greece at the Congress." On April 26 Lord Salisbury, writing to Mr. Wyndham, says:—"I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government do not believe that the Hellenic cause will suffer in the estimation of the Congress by the retirement of the insurgent bands, but they will undertake to state explicitly in Congress that the pacification which they hope may be secured is due to their interposition, but for which the struggle would have continued. They cannot, however, pledge beforehand the decision which the Powers assembled in Congress may arrive on any question of territorial adjustment."

The Porte has drawn up a memorandum, to be presented to the Congress, giving a history of the negotiations at Adrianople and San Stefano, which preceded the conclusion of the Treaty of San Stefano. The memorandum states that the negotiations lasted only seventeen days, during which discussion was impossible, as the propositions were not at once submitted in their entirety, but were brought forward separately with permanent pressure tending to precipitate matters. The resolutions taken were adopted blindly and hastily, and at each article the Turkish representatives met with signs of impatience, ironical comments, and threatening observations from the Russian plenipotentiaries. At the least objection offered on the Turkish side, the Grand Duke Nicholas threatened to terminate the armistice, and declared that if matters were not concluded before the anniversary of the Czar's accession to the throne, negotiations would be broken off. When the Turkish plenipotentiaries objected to the extension of the Servian boundaries, the Grand Duke, states the memorandum, gave orders for the Russian army to advance on Constantinople, but withdrew the order the following day. The same threat was renewed on each subsequent occasion that any difficulties were raised by the Turks. On the anniversary of the Czar's accession the Grand Duke Nicholas demanded the acceptance within an hour of several important remaining articles of the treaty. The boundaries of the new Bulgaria were fixed according to Russian information declared to be absolutely correct, whereas the memorandum points out that ethnological documents afterwards proved to be erroneous. The questions of the war indemnity and of the Turkish cessions of territory to Russia were settled at the last moment in a few hours.

A telegram from Constantinople in the *Daily News* says:—"The Palace is in the greatest straits for money, and cannot even pay its bakers' bills. Sadyk telegraphed to the Vali of Smyrna, begging for three hundred thousand piastres for the household expenses of the Sultan. The Vali answered that he had not as many paras. The grocers to whom the Palace is in debt refuse to furnish provisions for even small amounts. The money raised by loan is instantly swallowed by debts. Things are now as bad as ever. Besides this the Sultan, it is said, has fits of madness, in which he amuses himself by smashing everything in the apartments of some of his women whom he suspects of having had a hand in the conspiracy. He ordered Murad and family to be sent into exile. With difficulty Sadyk persuaded him to revoke his decision, and then the Sultan turned on him in fury, and ordered him out of his presence. He refuses to speak to or to see Osman Ghazi, and sees plotters and enemies on every side."

The situation in Constantinople causes some fear that a collective action of the Powers will be necessary as proposed by the German Government in the Berlin Memorandum.

According to a report from Berlin, the duration of the Congress will probably not exceed a fortnight, and that Prince Bismarck will preside. England will not, it is said, insist upon the abandonment of the article respecting Bessarabia; but, on the other hand, this stipulation will be strenuously opposed by Austria.

ANOTHER ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE EMPEROR WILLIAM.

We regret to record another attempt to assassinate the Emperor of Germany. As His Majesty was taking his customary drive at two o'clock on Sunday afternoon he was fired at from the second-floor window of No. 18, Unter den Linden, the house eastward of the spot where the former attempt to assassinate him took place. The charge of shot struck the Emperor, who had his hand raised to his helmet returning the salutations of the public on the side walk, and wounded him in several places, about thirty small shot striking him in the face, head, both arms, and back. The Kaiser fell back; his *chasseur* jumped down from the box and, getting into the carriage, raised the Emperor in his arms. The vehicle was at once surrounded by a crowd of agitated people, but no time was lost in turning and driving to the palace, where the wounds were at once examined by Drs. Lauer, Wilnes, and Langenbeck. A number of small shot were extracted from the wounds, and the loss of blood was considerable, but none of the wounds lead to the belief that there is any immediate danger. His Majesty suffered severe pain, but did not lose consciousness for a single moment. A bulletin issued at midnight states that he had slept, had asked for water, beef-tea, and wine, and had conversed with the physicians in his usual manner. The assassin is named Dr. Karl Edouard Nobiling. He is said to be an *employé* in the Ministry of Agriculture, and to have been in the habit of attending Democratic-Socialist clubs. He was born on April 10, 1848, at Kollno, near Birnbaum, has been living in Berlin during the last two years, and has resided at No. 18, Unter den Linden since the beginning of January last. Immediately after the deed was committed, the landlord rushed into the room to arrest the would-be assassin, but was shot down by Nobiling, who then fired upon himself with effect. The people who burst into the house were for throwing him out of the window to the crowd outside, who were screaming in a frenzied manner for his blood; but the constables successfully resisted the efforts to get hold of him, and sent for the police-van, into which, about forty minutes after he had fired at the Emperor, he was conveyed, laughing in a semi-hysterical, semi-idiotic manner, and taken to the Hausvoigtel. The agitation in Berlin is, as may well be imagined, beyond description. Immediately on the news of the attempted assassination reaching London, the Crown Prince and Princess, who were staying at Hatfield on a visit to the Marquis of Salisbury, were telegraphed for, and left at 8.25 in the evening for Dover *en route* for Berlin. The landlord, or rather hotel-keeper—for it was at a *chambres-garnies* establishment where the attempted assassination was made—who was shot by Nobiling, is in a very critical condition, the shot having struck him in the chin and passed through and out of his neck. The driver of the police-van, who, as a matter of precaution, drove through the gateway of the house and into the courtway to receive the prisoner, was struck by the arch as he passed underneath and instantly killed.

At a further judicial investigation, held on Monday, Nobiling confessed that he held Social-Democratic opinions, and had repeatedly attended meetings of that party. The prisoner further stated that for the last eight days he had the intention of shooting the Emperor, as he considered it would promote the welfare of the State were its Head to be removed.

A Berlin letter says:—"Before losing consciousness Nobiling was examined by the Public Prosecutor and Judge of Inquiry in presence of his mother, who had been fetched to identify the prisoner. He admitted that he earnestly sympathised with Ultramontanes and Socialists, that he had accomplices, and that though he had no reason to spare them, he would mention no names just then. He owned that the office of shooting the Emperor had devolved on him by drawing lots, and that he believed it would be to the public interest were the head of the State removed. The German public have thus to confront the terrible possibility of the existence of a Socialist conspiracy to take the Emperor's life, in which men of rank and culture are concerned. Nobiling's habit of receiving artisans in his rooms seems to justify the inference that the alleged conspiracy includes men of different ranks. Like Hödel, he had his photograph taken a few days before committing the crime. There is but one melancholy opinion as to the disgrace involved in these recent horrors."

LOSS OF A GERMAN IRONCLAD AND NEARLY 300 LIVES.

A fearful disaster befell the German ironclad squadron which left Wilhelmshaven on Thursday night for Plymouth, on its way to Gibraltar, by which one of them, the Grosser Kurfürst, was sunk, and three hundred and odd men have perished. The squadron, which comprised the Preussen, König Wilhelm, the flag-ship, and a despatch vessel passed Dover about nine o'clock on Friday morning at about a quarter of a mile distant apart. When passing Folkestone this distance was considerably less. Fishermen who were near them state that they were then within talking distance. On nearing Sandgate the Grosser Kurfürst ported her helm to avoid two merchant ships coming from Folkestone, and the König Wilhelm, the flag-ship, also altered her course, with the result that she ran into the port side of the Grosser Kurfürst. All accounts agree in attributing the catastrophe to an error on the part of the helmsman of the König Wilhelm, which was being steered by hand, owing to a defect in her steam steering apparatus. It is stated that great coolness and courage were displayed by both officers and men after the collision. A large number of Folkestone fishing-boats were happily close at hand, and rendered great assistance in saving life. The Grosser Kurfürst heeled over rapidly, and hundreds of men on board were seen crowding on the upper deck and leaping into the sea. In a few minutes after the collision the turret-ship sank. The König Wilhelm was severely damaged about the bows, but her water-tight bulkheads saved her, and she was able to lower several boats, which joined those of other ships in saving life. In this work they were assisted by tugs and boats from the shore; but despite all efforts a shocking loss of life occurred. Hundreds went down in the ship, and their fate was peculiarly horrible, cooped up as they must have been in the dark recesses of the vessel, and with no possibility of escaping from the effects of the explosion of the boilers on the one hand or the overwhelming inrush of the waves on the other. Many others, doubtless, were drawn beneath the water in the swirl that would follow the disappearance of the mighty hull.

The following statement relative to the catastrophe was made by Richard May, master of the fishing smack Emily:—"My boat, in company with the rest of the fishing boats, was returning to Folkestone Harbour when we noticed three large ironclads coming down. A barque was fetching off

from the shore, when the leading man-of-war noticed her and ported her helm a little so as to clear the barque. The other vessel (the König Wilhelm) immediately pulled her helm hard-aport and ran into the Grosser Kurfürst, striking her just in the fore part of her mizenmast. She immediately began to sink, with her head to the north-east, on her broadside. She went down five minutes after she was struck in fifteen fathoms of water. When we saw her struck, we immediately ran after her, and were on the spot almost directly after she foundered. All hands on board the Grosser Kurfürst jumped over the weather side into the sea. We picked up twenty-seven, including three petty officers. The other boats picked up some of the men, who were afterwards all taken on board the King William. There were 500 men on board, 300 of whom were drowned. The boilers did not explode, but the steam must have scalded many who were in the water. The King William lost her jibboom and had her bow stove in. Every endeavour was made to stop the breach with hammocks, &c." The lifeboat from Sandgate and a tug from Dover went out to the scene of the disaster, but were too late to render much assistance. The ill-fated ship went down with the flag floating from her mast denoting "sinking."

The total number of men who lost their lives by the collision is now ascertained to have been 284. The complement of the ship was 497, all told; of these 216 were picked up, but three have since died from exhaustion, making the total number of the saved 213, considerably less than one-half of the whole. Of those saved twenty-three were officers. Six officers lost their lives—namely, an engineer, the paymaster, and some junior officers. Captain Montz was not drowned, as was reported. He went down with the ship, but being a good swimmer he came to the surface and was dragged on board a steam pinnace. Being overcrowded the pinnace was capsized, and the captain again sank. He managed to get into another boat, which was also capsized, and for the third time the captain had to struggle for his life. He was almost unconscious when brought on board the flagship. A dreadful fate befell some thirty unfortunate sailors who, in spite of the commands and entreaties of the boatswain, who was standing on the forecastle, threw themselves over the bow and endeavoured to swim away. But the sinking ship was too fast for them, and they were caught in the netting which is stretched under the jibboom, and, thus entangled, were carried down with the ship.

The German ironclad König Wilhelm was taken into dock at Portsmouth on Saturday, where she she now lies waiting the decision of the respective Governments of England and Germany as to what shall be done. She is much injured, and the damage would probably take four or five months to make good, but it is only intended to make such repairs at Portsmouth as will enable the ship to return to Wilhelmshaven to undergo a thorough refit.

The diver sent down to examine the Grosser Kurfürst on Sunday made the following report:—"Vessel in fifteen fathoms completely capsized bottom up, and resting on her turrets, with head to north-west. No appearance of wreckage on surface, except spar, supposed topgallant yard, visible at low water, but only hanging by three inches of rope. Saw no bodies."

The sea bottom where the Grosser Kurfürst lies is very solid, so that she will not sink further. About half a mile to the southward lies the wreck of a large vessel which foundered about five years ago. The wreck of the Northfleet lies about nine miles to the west. The Grosser Kurfürst lies in the pathway of all steamers going down Channel, and it will be necessary to blow her up or raise her; the latter, it is thought, can be done.

At Portsmouth, on Monday, an inquest was held upon the bodies of three of the sailors belonging to the German ironclad, the Grosser Kurfürst, who had been rescued, but who had afterwards succumbed to the exhaustion and exposure they had undergone. The difficulty arose, that as the collision between the Grosser Kurfürst and the König Wilhelm occurred more than three miles from the coast, an English court had no power to pronounce upon the degree of culpability, if any, which rested upon the different commanders. The coroner, therefore, confined his inquiry to the actual cause of death, the jury returning a formal verdict to the effect that the deceased died through the sinking of the Grosser Kurfürst.

Admiral Batsch's report to the Emperor states that an order of the officer of the watch being misunderstood by the man at the helm, the König Wilhelm, after making way for a foreign vessel, turned to larboard instead of starboard, which caused the collision with the Grosser Kurfürst. The three ironclads were originally at a hectometre's distance.

THE LATE EARL RUSSELL.

In the House of Lords on Friday EARL GRANVILLE said: I hope it will not be regarded as presumptuous in one who was for forty years connected with the late Earl Russell in Parliament if I put a question of which I have given private notice. Looking to Lord Russell's political and personal claims upon it, I think the public will not be unwilling to make recognition of the services of so distinguished a statesman, whose name has been connected so long with the political history of the country. I believe that Her Majesty's Government share in these feelings, there having been some communications on the subject. I do not know whether the First Lord of the Treasury feels himself at liberty to state what has passed. The EARL OF BEACONSFIELD: Her Majesty and Her Majesty's Government felt that they were only expressing the general feeling of the nation when they offered that the interment of the great statesman whom we had lost should be public, and that he should be buried in the venerable Abbey, in the shadow of which, as it were, his youth was educated, and the greater part of his eminent career was passed. It was, of course, impossible to come to any decision upon such a subject without making ourselves acquainted with the feelings of his family, and with the desire, were it expressed, of the departed himself. I will not say I regret the result, because I am sure it has been brought about by feelings and considerations with which we must all sympathise, and which all of us must respect; but I have, almost within the last few moments, been authoritatively informed that the widow of this illustrious man declines this public mark of the veneration of the nation in consequence of the express declaration in the will of Earl Russell that he should be buried with his family and his ancestors in Buckinghamshire.

In the House of Commons on Monday, the Chancellor of the Exchequer informed the House that it had been the intention of the Government to propose a public funeral for Lord Russell—to whose distinguished public services he paid a fitting tribute—but it was not in accordance with the feelings of his family or of his own direction. Lord Hartington said a few words in recognition of Lord Russell's great position as a statesman.

Yesterday the remains of Earl Russell were, in accordance with his wish, interred in the family mausoleum at Chenies, near Rickmansworth, in Buckinghamshire. At five o'clock in the morning the procession, which consisted of a plain hearse, a mourning coach, and two private carriages, the first containing the youthful Earl Russell, grandson of the late earl, and the Hon. Rollo Russell, and the second some of the servants of the family, left Pembroke Lodge, Richmond, by road, for Chenies, where it arrived shortly after eleven o'clock. About noon the procession left the residence of the rector, the Rev. Lord Wriothesley Russell, brother of the late earl, for the church, among the mourners being the Duke of Bedford, Lord Arthur Russell, Lord Charles Russell, Lord Alexander Russell, Lord Edward Russell, Lord Herbrand Russell, the Earl of Bradford, Viscount Torrington (representing the Queen), Earl Fortescue, Earl Granville, the Earl of Minto, the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, the Earl of Dalkeith, Lord Ribblesdale, the Earl of Lichfield, Viscount Melgund, the Marquis of Tavistock, the Earl of Durham, the Duke of Abercorn, the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Claud Hamilton, Lord George Hamilton, Lord Frederick Hamilton, Lord Ernest Hamilton, The Marquis of Lansdowne, Admiral Elliott, Mr. C. Romilly, Mr. A. Romilly, Mr. S. Morley, M.P., and Mr. Pease, M.P. Deputations from Bedford, Luton, and the British and Foreign School Society were also in attendance. The service was performed by the Rev. Lord Wriothesley Russell, assisted by the Rev. C. T. Ward, and a deep impression was produced on all present. The mausoleum is reached from the church through carved oak gates, and contains some superb monuments to the Russell and Bedford families. In the vault below rest the remains of nearly a hundred members of the family, and into this the oaken coffin, covered with crimson velvet and bearing the inscription:—"The Right Hon John Earl Russell, K.G., born 18th of August, 1792, died 28th of May, 1878, aged 85"—was lowered. Among the wreaths of flowers which rested on the coffin was one of snow white purity, which bore the inscription:—"A mark of regard from Queen Victoria."

The villagers and tenants on the estate of the Duke of Bedford were present in large numbers. While the coffin was being removed to the family mortuary the choir sang a portion of a well-known hymn commencing at the words, "When our heads are bowed in woe." After the remains were deposited in their place close to those of the late earl's first wife and those of the late Viscount Amberley and his wife, the people in the church were allowed to enter the vault. The monuments of the Russell family, extending back for more than 200 years, are very numerous, and in an excellent state of preservation.

At a meeting of the London committee of deputies of the British Jews, held yesterday, Mr. Joseph Mayer Montefiore, president, in the chair, an address of condolence was unanimously voted to Countess Russell.

IN MEMORIAM.

JOHN, EARL RUSSELL.

Born August 18, 1792. Died May 28, 1878.

(From *Punch*.)

The Golden Wedding, but three weeks ago,
Of him and Liberty, his mistress dear!
And now the true old heart, which then beat slow,
Is stopped, and England bows beside his bier,

Remembering the brave work of that long life
Which saw the light when France, in Mænad mood,
Mad with the shock of old and new at strife,
Strove to give Liberty fresh youth by blood;

Rousing a horror, that from those who wrought
Such deeds in Liberty's most sacred name
Had spread to Liberty herself, till thought
Of her grew hateful and men spurned her name.

But he was of the few of firmer heart,
Who kept the Goddess and the godless throng
Of her blood-drunken worshippers apart,
Held her truths fast, and did her shrine no wrong.

For they had drawn their faith from purer springs,
Where Liberty sat side by side with Law,
O'erbearing howl of mobs and hest of Kings,
With Order for their guide who came to draw.

So, from the first day of his public life
Unto the last—some sixty years and more—
As Liberty's liege knight he served, in strife
Of good with ill, whate'er name either bore.

Content to wait, but still with trust to win,
In God's fight, for God's cause—the good of man:
Oft battled, but with heart to re-begin
To-morrow what to-day's strength failed to span.

Whatever victory stands writ in light
O'er crime, hate, ignorance, fair claim denied,
O'er Wrong usurping arms and place of Right—
His name is written at that conquest's side.

Others might change their colours and their cause,
Some, whose weak eyes slow opened to the light,
Some, who in fear of progress prayed for pause;
His road was ever on, from right to right.

The faiths his youth had held when held by few,
He lived to see the faiths of most and best,
Till in their wake the common herd they drew,
And shaped the law, and stood for truths confest.

Rare fortune! It was given his age to see
The fulness of the day whose dawn he saw,
The harvests garnered, at whose sowing he
Had heard the seed proclaimed not worth a straw.

No wonder if, with all he had done and known,
He held him somewhat stiffly, in the trust
That where he showed the way 'twas wisely shown—
That all his "would-bes," would; his "must-bes," must.

They called him cold and proud who judged by shows,
Not knowing what a fire was at his core,
What springs of love 'neath that hard surface rose,
What flowers that seeming sand-waste bred and bore.

Only when sorrow came his hearth to share
With sadness love and reverence could not cheer,
'Twas seen how pride could bow, how faith could bear,
And trust in God make even darkness clear.

He lived to see the fifty years complete
From his first battle won in Freedom's cause;
Like one that hears, 'twixt sleep and waking sweet,
The songs that tell of May-time in the shaws,

He heard their greetings whom he might not see,
Nor take their hands, nor thank them face to face;
And then the long-tried spirit was set free,
And England bows above his resting-place!

Epitome of News.

The weather at Balmoral is lovely, and the Queen takes daily walks and drives in the neighbourhood of the Castle. On Saturday the Rev. J. Macgregor, of Edinburgh, preached in Crathie parish church, Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice being present.

The Queen and Court are expected to return from Balmoral to Windsor towards the end of June.

A levée was held at St. James's Palace on Monday by the Prince of Wales, on behalf of Her Majesty, at which the presentations were about 300 in number.

It was announced that the Crown Prince and Princess of Germany would dine with Lord Beaconsfield on Friday, but subsequently the statement was declared to be "erroneous." Their Imperial Highnesses dined that evening with Mr. and Mrs. Goschen, and the Prime Minister entertained the Austrian Ambassador, Lord Salisbury, and others. The Crown Prince and Princess have since spent two days with the Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury at Hatfield, but were hastily summoned to Berlin in consequence of the attempt on the Emperor's life, and left Dover by special steamer on Sunday night. Their children have gone to Eastbourne.

Count Schouvaloff left town on Friday evening for St. Petersburg, travelling by the train and steamer which conveyed the Crown Prince and Princess of Germany *en route* for Berlin.

The Earl and Countess of Derby and Lady Margaret Cecil left St. James's-square on Saturday afternoon for Knowsley, where they intend staying several weeks.

The Empress Eugenie and Prince Louis Napoleon paid a visit to the Crown Prince and Princess of Germany, at Buckingham Palace, on Saturday.

The report to the effect that Lord Hartington is about to be married to the daughter of a well-known Liberal peer is denied.

Sir Edward Watkin, M.P., has presented a statue of Mr. John Bright, M.P., to the Manchester Corporation.

A banquet in connection with the Hervey Tercentenary was held at the Royal College of Physicians on Saturday, when about one hundred guests and Fellows of the College dined together in the library. The chair was occupied by the President of the College, Dr. Risdon Bennett, F.R.S., who was supported by the Marquis of Ripon, Viscount Cardwell, Mr. Spencer Walpole, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Lowe, Professor Owen, Pro-

fessor Huxley, Mr. John Birkett, Mr. Simon, and others.

Mr. Gladstone has left London to attend the funeral of the Duchess of Argyll, at Roseneath, N.B. He will spend some days at Hawarden, and is expected to return to town on the 12th.

The death is announced of the Right Hon. Russell Gurney, M.P. It was somewhat unexpected; but it seems that Mr. Gurney caught cold while returning from the House of Commons on Monday night week, was subsequently attacked with bronchitis, and died on Friday morning. It is only three months since Mr. Gurney retired from the Recordership of the City of London in consequence of failing health. He was seventy-four years of age, was born at Norwood in 1804, educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1828, made a Queen's Counsel in 1848, and appointed Recorder for London in 1856. Mr. Russell Gurney was one of the Commissioners who inquired into the Jamaica disturbance twelve years ago, and also went to the United States to settle the legal points in the Treaty of Washington. He was a Conservative, and sat for Southampton, for which borough he was first elected in 1865. He was the author of the Public Worship Regulation Act.

Mr. Forsyth, Q.C., has informed the electors of Marylebone that he will not offer himself as a candidate at the general election. The Conservatives have adopted as his successor Lord Headley, a young Irish peer, and Mr. Seagur Hunt. Sir Thomas Chambers will, it is said, offer himself for re-election. The Liberal "Three Hundred" have held a meeting with a view to combined action.

According to the London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury*, Mr. Grey is not likely to sit for South Northumberland. At the preliminary scrutiny of the votes in the presence of agents of the respective members, nine of Mr. Grey's papers were found to be bad, while only three were vitiated on the other side. In consequence it is hinted that Mr. Grey will, in all probability, permit Mr. Ridley to take peaceable possession. The matter will not, of course, be formally settled till Mr. Justice Field appears on the scene on the 24th inst.

At the invitation of the Greenwich Liberal "Five Hundred," Mr. Otway, formerly M.P. for Chatham, has consented to contest the borough at the next election.

The Conservatives of Rochester have adopted Mr. W. S. S. Karr, of Lowndes-square, London, as their candidate.

The Liberal "Two Hundred" of Southampton, on the recommendation of a committee, have unanimously adopted Mr. Henry Mason Bompas, Q.C., as a candidate for the borough. The writ is expected before the end of the week.

The cricket match between the Australian team and the Yorkshire County Eleven ended on Saturday in the victory of the Australians by six wickets.

At Kennington Oval on Monday the Australian cricketers commenced a match with a Surrey eleven. Surrey won the toss, and going in first succeeded in scoring 107, while the Australians in their first innings made 110. The second innings of Surrey was then commenced, and eleven runs were put together for the loss of one wicket. In consequence of the wonderful play recently exhibited by the Australians, great interest was excited by this match, the number of spectators during the afternoon being estimated at between 13,000 and 14,000. The game was concluded yesterday.

The report of the Copyright Commission has been laid on the table of the House of Commons. According to the *Daily News* the Royal Commissioners recommend an extension of the term of copyright, and propose that foreigners who give their books to the world in this country should be entitled to the same rights as British subjects. They support the proposal for a mixed commission on the subject of international copyright; and suggest that a licensing system for the republication of works, subject to a royalty in favour of the copyright owner, should be introduced into our colonies.

A meeting of members of the House of Commons interested in the Cattle Plague Bill was held in the Tea Room on Thursday afternoon. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was present. The speakers urged the right hon. gentleman to give the first place to the Cattle Plague Bill, even though it might be necessary to drop the County Government Bill. This course has been taken.

Some experiments which have just been made at Manchester point to a new departure in the plating of ironclads. Sir Joseph Whitworth claims to have produced an armour-plating which is absolutely invulnerable to artillery. The plates are formed of fluid-compressed steel, and built up in sections composed of concentric rings around a central disc. These rings prevent any crack produced by the force of impact from passing beyond the limits of the section that receives the blow. The plates have thus the hardness of steel, without its liability to crack. So far, the trials have proved remarkably successful.

The latest statistics of education in Ireland seem be satisfactory. In the report of the Education Commissioners just published it is stated that the total school fees and subscriptions are increasing in amount, having been for 1875, £84,000; for 1876, £107,685; and for 1877, £119,377. There are now 10,489 teachers in Ireland in connection with the National Board.

The Liverpool Peace Society have petitioned the Queen anent the notorious music-hall war song which she was said to have honoured with her patronage. A reply has been received from the Home Office that the petition has been duly laid before the Queen.

A Ladies' Dress Association was inaugurated by a dinner on Friday. Captain R. W. Kelly, R.N., presided. The association is established for the sale of ladies' dress of all kinds on the principles of the co-operative societies; but only shareholders are supplied, and the profits on shares are limited to 6 per cent., any surplus being returned to the purchasers in proportion to their purchases. The buildings include a refreshment and writing room for ladies.

Eugene Marie Chantrelle, who poisoned his wife—after subjecting her to a long course of ill-treatment—in order to secure the sum for which her life had been insured, was hanged in Edinburgh on Friday. The convict was attended in his last moments by the minister of the Tolbooth Church, to whom he said that although he had often defended atheistical opinions, "he had now returned to the simple faith of his boyhood." He manifested extraordinary composure on the scaffold, but made no confession.

The quantity of wheat sold during the past week, according to the return of the officers of Excise, was 33,548 qrs., at an average price of 50s. 4d. The quantity sold in the corresponding period last year was 26,376 qrs., at an average price of 66s. 11d.

On Saturday afternoon Sir J. M'Garel Hogg, the chairman of the Metropolitan Board of Works, in the presence of a number of members of that body, opened the New Central Fire Brigade Station in Southwark Bridge-road, to which establishment the headquarters of the brigade have been transferred from Watling-street.

A new public recreation-ground for Lewisham parish was opened at Sydenham on Saturday. It is seventeen-and-a-half acres in extent, and has been purchased for 8,500*l.*, towards which the Metropolitan Board of Works contributed one-half, the Lewisham charities 1,000*l.*, and the remaining portion of the purchase-money was raised by private subscription.

In the first three months of the present year twenty new School Boards were established, covering districts with a total population of about 36,000. The total number of School Boards now established in England and Wales is 1,859. The total population under the School Board system is 12,994,977.

The School Board for London has resolved on teaching girls to cook. One of the teachers is henceforth to give lessons in every Board school on food and its preparation, and the girls will be required to attend; and they are to be taught practical cooking as well. Twenty-one kitchens are to be established in different parts of London, and each is to be fitted up properly and presided over by a practical cook, with a salary of 60*l.* a year.

About 8,000 tons of steel rails have been shipped from Barrow this week for Montreal, Canada. Several heavy cargoes have already been sent over the Atlantic this season, and others are to follow. A large consignment of pig iron and scrap was despatched from Barrow last week to Russian ports in the Baltic.

On Saturday, during a fog, the Guion steamer Idaho, from New York to Liverpool, went ashore and foundered near the Coningbeg lightship, on the Irish coast. All the passengers and crew were saved. According to a telegram from Dublin, the Idaho, which was lost off the Wexford coast, sank in less than fifteen minutes, allowing none on board any time to bring with them any of their personal effects. The most perfect discipline was preserved, the crew behaving with marked coolness. In testimony of this an address has been prepared to the captain, Mr. Holmes. The entire Saturday night was passed on the Galtees, many of the lady passengers having obtained shelter in a fisherman's cottage. Nothing was prepared for the passengers when they came to Dublin; they were left derelict at the terminus, and the ladies took possession of the waiting-room, where they passed a second sleepless night. The Idaho had a large consignment of meat from New York, valued at 10,000*l.*, which is all lost.

During a thunderstorm which passed over Perthshire on Thursday the monument to General Baird, the hero of the storming of Seringapatam, which was erected on a hill between Crieff and Cowrie, at a cost of over 4,000*l.* in 1832, was shattered by lightning. The memorial, which was a counterpart of Cleopatra's Needle, was 80ft. high, and cost 4,000*l.* to erect.

Further progress was made towards the landing of Cleopatra's Needle on Friday, the iron vessel in which it is now contained having been successfully floated into the cradle prepared for it alongside the Embankment. The slow process of hoisting the Needle will be commenced immediately.

The Thirlmere water scheme is at an end for the present session. At all events, the Standing Orders Committee of the Lords have declined to dispense with those orders which had not been complied with in the Manchester Water Bill as it was presented to their lordships.

The visit of Mr. Gough, the temperance orator, to this country, which was arranged to be made this summer, will probably be postponed. Mr. Gough is suffering from some throat affection, which prevents his speaking in public.

The Maidstone Museum Committee had before it on Friday the recommendation of the town council in favour of opening the museum and library on Sunday afternoons. After considerable discussion, the committee adopted the recommendation of the council by a majority of ten to nine.

On Wednesday afternoon the Manchester city coroner held inquests on the bodies of three men—an omnibus driver, a spring-maker, and an excavator—who were all found to have died with excesive drinking.

The hearing of the charge against Mr. Henry George King, wholesale chemist, of Abbott-street, Kingsland-green, of having caused the death of a child named Eliza Sears, and of having endangered the lives of several other children by the sale of violet powders containing a quantity of arsenic, was resumed on Friday before the magistrates at Epping. Mr. Poland prosecuted on behalf of the Crown. A number of married women, residing principally in the village of Loughton, were called as witnesses, and their evidence went to show that the deaths of several children had been caused by the use of the defendant's powders, while other children had become seriously ill by its application. Dr. Dupré, of Westminster Hospital, who had analysed several of the packets, stated that the percentage of arsenic found in them ranged from fifteen to fifty-one. Detective-Sergeant Roots said he seized a quantity of the defendant's powders at a shop in Bethnal-green, and these on analysis had been shown to contain a large percentage of arsenic. Mr. Poland stated that the defendant had done his best to restrict the sale of the powder, and hoped that he would give the names of his customers, so that the powder might be traced. The defendant said he wished to do so. The case was again adjourned, the defendant being admitted to bail.

The twinship Calais-Douvres is disabled. While coming from Calais to Dover on Friday, with 310 passengers, two cylinders of her engines burst, in addition to the one which burst the previous day; and when within a short distance of the Admiralty Pier the steering gear gave way, causing the ship to run into the pier. She stove in two of her bow plates. The chairman of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway states that, as the result of a careful inspection, the injury is not so great but that the vessel will, in a short time, be able to resume her station. But, he says, there has been no bursting of a cylinder.

The prospects of the wheat harvest in Great Britain have been seriously damaged by the heavy and continued rain in May. The *Mark Lane Express* says that the state of affairs is alarming, and no doubt our farmers are having a bad time of it in regard to their grain crops; but it is a remarkable fact that the certainty of a small yield in this country has had no unfavourable effect upon prices. On the contrary, the market in London was weaker on Monday, the cause being the announcement of enormous shipments which are coming from America.

In the Exchequer Division of the High Court of Justice on Monday, the hearing of the action for libel brought by a late member of the Stock Exchange against four members of the committee of that institution, came to a conclusion, after having occupied the court seven days. In reply to the questions put to the jury by Baron Cleasby, they returned a finding in which they felt bound to censure strongly the conduct of the Stock Exchange Committee in not having investigated the case more thoroughly before coming to their decision but found no actual proof of any express malice. As to damages, the jury were not agreed, and preferred to leave it to the judge, who, however, had left the court, and the jury were discharged.

On Monday evening Mr. H. M. Stanley delivered an address before the members of the Royal Geographical Society, on the Nile and Livingstone (Congo) Basins, which was listened to with great interest and attention. Sir Rutherford Alcock, who presided, spoke of Mr. Stanley as not only one of the most adventurous and daring explorers, but also as one of the most intelligent and observant of geographers.

There does not seem any immediate prospect of a settlement of the cotton trade of North-East Lancashire, though there have been rumours that the operatives would accept the masters' terms after Whitsuntide. The Blackburn Weavers' Committee, yielding to the feeling manifested at the general meeting of delegates held at Accrington on Sunday, have rescinded the resolution in favour of submission which was adopted by them on Friday night.

One of the witnesses against the persons committed for trial for destroying Colonel Jackson's house at Blackburn received a letter on Monday, in which the writer threatens his life. Others are also threatened, and the communication is now in the hands of the police.

Messrs. Titus Salt, Sons, and Co. have informed the operatives at Saltaire that, owing to the condition of trade, some reduction of wages will be made after the close of the present week. It is highly probable that the workpeople will quietly accept the change.

The French Society of Friends of Peace propose to hold a Peace Congress in Paris in September. The Society has already received numerous letters of approval.

The Paris Exhibition has now completed the first month of its existence. It has proved so far a great pecuniary success, the receipts during that time having amounted to 52,000*l.* sterling. On Wednesday, notwithstanding other attractions, no less than 132,000 persons were admitted.

The death is announced at Paris of the widow of Hahnemann, the founder of homœopathy, at the age of seventy-eight.

By a large majority the Legislature of New South

Wales has decided to open all its museums and public institutions on Sundays.

The windows of the apartment in which Voltaire died were opened on Thursday for the first time for one hundred years past. The room is situated on the first storey of the house forming the angle of the quay bearing the philosopher's name and of the Rue de Beaune (on the side on which the houses have odd numbers). The Marchioness de Villette, to whom the house belonged, had made an express stipulation in her will that the windows should remain closed until the expiration of the period mentioned.

Shortly before midnight on Saturday the Shah of Persia arrived at Berlin, and was received at the railway station by the Governor and Commandant of the city, accompanied by a guard of honour.

At the recent anniversary of the American Temperance Society at New York, Neal Dow, the author of the Maine Liquor Law, declared that in the State of Maine no liquor is sold in the villages, and only a little—and that among the foreign inhabitants—in the towns. The amount paid in the whole State annually for liquors, he said, was a million of dollars, whereas, according to the ratio of other States, it should be thirteen millions.

The *Calcutta Englishman* hears that Maharajah Holkar has placed his troops at the disposal of the Government of India for home or foreign service.

The Voltaire Centenary was celebrated on Thursday in Paris, and passed off quietly. There were two great meetings, one at Myers's Circus, the other in the Gaité Theatre. At the latter M. Victor Hugo presided, and delivered a characteristic speech. He eulogised Voltaire as the friend of justice and the enemy of fanaticism, and, in condemning all wars, said that the true field of battle was that which France presented at this moment in the Universal Exhibition. There was no demonstration in connection with the Joan of Arc anniversary.

We learn from Alexandria that an official announcement has been published, signed by Mr. Rivers Wilson, inviting all creditors of the Egyptian Government for sums above 1000*l.*, to send in their claims within thirty days, or sixty days in the case of foreign creditors. It is also stated that the Committee of Inquiry into Egyptian Revenues has demanded from the Khedive a complete list of all the estates belonging to His Highness and his family, with the dates of the original acquisition and transfer to His Highness's family and the amount of purchase money.

According to the latest intelligence from the Cape, a combined attack was made on the rebels at Tutaba and Kantoda at daybreak on April 20, when they were surprised and dispersed in all directions. A remarkable incident of the engagement was that about 400 women threw themselves between the Kaffirs and the British force, thus enabling the rebels to escape. After the fight 126 dead bodies were found.

While objecting to the award of the Fishing Commission as exorbitant, unfair, and made by only two of the commissioners, the United States Senate has agreed to report a bill authorising the payment of the amount, if President Hayes, after further correspondence with England, deems that the honour and good faith of the country demand it.

President Hayes has stated that he would not recognise any attempt to remove him from office except by a joint impeachment on the part of both Houses of Congress. The Committee of the House of Representatives appointed to investigate the Presidential election frauds have commenced examining witnesses.

A tornado has swept over Richmond, Missouri, destroying a hundred houses, and causing damage and loss of property to the extent of 250,000dols. Ten persons were killed and over thirty injured.

The Cape Colony International Exhibition has been deferred by order of Governor Sir H. Bartle Frere until March next year.

It appears that Vera Sassulitch, who shot General Trepoff, had good reason for going into hiding immediately after the remarkable verdict of the jury. The Supreme Court of Revision has declared the proceedings null and void, and ordered that the case shall be tried at Novgorod, without a jury, of course. The whereabouts of the accused, says a telegram from St Petersburg, is unknown.

Miscellaneous.

Messrs. Hurst and Blackett have in the press a new novel by Mrs. Oliphant, entitled "The Primrose Path," in three volumes. The late Mr. Nassau Senior's "Conversations with M. Thiers, M. Guizot, and other distinguished persons during the Second Empire," edited by his daughter, Mrs. Simpson, will be issued next week.

HOW TO PREVENT STRIKES.—The well-known firm of Messrs. Cassell, Petter, and Galpin have just been proposing an excellent and praiseworthy plan for the benefit of their workpeople. At a meeting held for the purpose at the City Terminus Hotel a few evenings ago, a scheme was set forth embodying several important advantages for such of the *employés* of the firm as had seen seven years' service and upwards. For them the principals undertook to lay aside from year to year a certain fixed proportion of the returns to provide a gratuitous life insurance, the amounts payable at death varying with length of service and kind of work, from 25*l.* to 100*l.* Further, they pledged themselves to provide for the payment of bonuses to those who became incapacitated by age or ill-health. As a means of strengthening the good understanding between masters and servants, so much needed at the present time, the scheme has every prospect of success. The firm already numbers 830 persons employed, and of these nearly 200 have already completed seven years and upwards of service. They would, therefore, as Mr. Galpin told them, "have the satisfaction of taking home with them a fully paid-up policy of life insurance." We earnestly wish the movement God-speed. We earnestly pray that it may find many imitators: an immense amount of good may thus be affected and no sacrifice made—while many gain, none will lose.—*Social Notes.*

Gleanings.

The new form of the "Jingo" rhyme (says the *Spectator*) is pithy and sententious:—

We don't want to fight; but by Jingo, if we do,
We won't go to the front ourselves, but we'll send the mild Hindoo.

The *Detroit Free Press* offers to lend Europe the American Congress if it can't get up one of its own.

A LEFT-HANDED COMPLIMENT.—At an evening party at which Dumas was present, a young lady performed one of those difficult pieces which are worthless if not executed to perfection. At the end of the display, the company were in ecstacies. On being asked his opinion, Dumas replied, "She plays like a good Christian, her left hand knoweth not what her right hand doeth."

WANT OF APPRECIATION.—A lady of æsthetic tastes suffered a severe shock the other day owing to the carelessness or denseness of the officials at a certain loan collection. She was possessed of a fine Whistler in that artist's best manner—that is to say, a dull green piece of canvas with a white streak across the middle, and called "The Thames at Midnight," but looking much more like a dining-room wall with some of the paint chipped off by the back of the chairs. With commendable public spirit, the lady despatched this picture to the gallery; but what was her horror when she came to see how it was hung to discover, on looking closely into it, that her treasure had been hung upside-down!—*Mayfair.*

THE NIGHTINGALE AT HUDDERSFIELD.—Nightingales are peculiarly fastidious in the choice of their summer quarters, and when once they establish an antipathy stick to it. They are not on visiting terms with Devonshire or Cornwall, and have a fine contempt for Yorkshire manufacturers. But every rule has its exception, and last year the bird was heard in a wood some miles out of Huddersfield. That manufacturing town is a centre of capital and enterprise, and the arrival of the nightingale was soon turned to account. An adventurous liveryman chartered an omnibus, which started every night for the wood, waited an hour, came back, and then started afresh with a new load of passengers. It was quite a droll sight to see this raid of broadcloth manufacturers turning out at midnight to listen to a singing-bird. The nightingale became quite the fashion at Huddersfield, and was as much talked about as Patti in London. A great season was expected this year, and there were to be nightingale picnics and moonlight excursions. Unfortunately the nightingale has not come, and a boy who got up in a tree and whistled failed to give satisfaction, except as a desirable cock-shot to the disappointed excursionists.—*Mayfair.*

DRESS REFORM.—A NOVEL LADY'S DRESS.—It appears that a physician of Clinton, Illinois, and his wife, after deeply pondering over the domestic unhappiness created in thousands of homes by the length of milliners' and dressmakers' bills, resolved to make a daring attempt to emancipate woman from the costly tyranny which she has so long endured. The material hit upon was paper, and the lady estimated that at a cost of a little over one dollar she could clothe herself completely and tastefully, while a chemical application would remove all danger of fire. The new paper costume was introduced to public notice at a party given by the physician and his wife, and everybody pronounced the experiment a success. The lower or primary strata were composed of soft white unglazed paper—what might be called, in view of their position, the mesozoic skirts, were made of thick brown paper, while the tertiary skirts were white and light. The outside dress was of a pure white material, but it was covered with designs in water-colours. The front breadth contained a representation of the Washington Monument, as originally designed, surrounded by flowers and leaves of the most exquisite tints, while the rear breadths were ornamented with landscapes in which the wild scenery of the Western backwoods was accurately represented. There was one drawback; the dress was put together with gum, and the physician objected that the lady would have to be steamed before she could remove a single garment. That, however, was but a temporary defect, the lady being already engaged in solving the problem how to apply buttons to paper. The guests were filled with admiration at the success of the experiment, and agreed that a far greater success had been achieved by their hostess than by Mrs. Bloomer, Dr. Mary Walker, and other dress reformers. Unfortunately, a clumsy waiter, a little before the party broke up, stumbled, and managed to empty a large jug of lemonade upon the shoulders and lap of the hostess. The husband rushed from the room, and, reappearing with a waterproof cloak, speedily covered the extent of the unhappy lady's discomfiture. Surely the fate of such a martyr in the holy cause of economy is deserving of a passing tear of sympathy.—*Evening Paper.*

CAPTIVE WHALES.—There is once more a live whale in London. Two others arrived at Liverpool by the same ship, the Circassia, of the Allan Line, from Quebec. One was taken to Manchester and the other to Blackpool. It will be recollected that the last whale that was brought to London died soon after its arrival. It arose practically from a severe cold. The experience then gained has not been thrown away. The conditions under which the animals are obtained and brought over are these:—They are caught off the coast of Labrador by surrounding them by a line of boats and so driving them up on the top of a tide on to the shore. As they are stranded on the retreat of the tide they are put in cases suited to their size and packed in seaweed. They are then put on a sloop specially engaged, run to Quebec, and then transferred to steamer. Mr. Zach Coup, who has captured 125 whales alive, and has supplied all the specimens shown in any aquarium, undertook the entire management of this expedition, and with four men specially engaged to relieve one another in throwing water over the whales during the whole journey, brought his charge to Liverpool early on Tuesday morning. Mr. Farini was present at the disembarking, and Mr. Carrington, the naturalist of the Westminster Aquarium, was in attendance to take charge of the specimen for London. The train, with the truck carrying the whale, arrived in London on Tuesday evening, when the case was removed to a van. Very little time was lost. The case was hauled out of the truck and carried to the tank on the shoulders of twenty-one men, the seaweed was taken out, one side of the case was soon sawn asunder and taken off, during all which time water was poured over the animal's head, and a chorus of cheers went up as the whale took to the water. There was anxious suspense for more than two minutes as to what would happen, but the whale then rose and gave a vigorous blow, and after this it took to swimming more and more actively, and by rolling along the bottom began to clear away the remnants of the skin hardened during the voyage. It is a Beluga, and its length is 13ft. 6in. The whale is said to be in good health, and to eat from fifteen to twenty pounds of eels daily. It weight is about a ton and a-half.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

FOSTER.—May 22, at Hazel House, Plaistow, E., the wife of the Rev. Josiah Foster, of a son.

JOHNSON.—May 25, at Penzance, the wife of A. W. Johnson, Congregational Minister, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

STEVENS—BEWLAY.—May 21, at the Brixton Congregational Church, by the Rev. E. Bewlay, father of the bride, Mr. W. Stevens, of Stockwell-park-road, to Mary Elizabeth Annie Thompson Bewlay, eldest daughter of the Rev. E. Bewlay, Principal of St. John's College, Brixton.

EVANS—MORGAN.—May 29, at Wilton-square Welsh Presbyterian Chapel, N., Humphrey Evans, of Amherst-road, Stoke Newington, and Troedrhiwlwba, Aberystwith, to Mary J., only daughter of Morgan Morgan, Esquire, of 13, Farleigh-road, Stoke Newington, N.

DEATHS.

SPELMAN.—May 24, at his residence, Tivetshall Hall, Norfolk, Frederick Spelman, in the 58th year of his age.

CANTLOWS.—May 2[illegible], at Isleham, Cambs, aged 76, the Rev. W. W. Cantlows, formerly and for twenty-six years the esteemed pastor of Pound-lane Chapel.

WEBSTER.—June 1, at his residence, Loraine-road, the Rev. John Webster, M.A. (Cantab), Vicar of St. Barnabas, Holloway, N., in his 43rd year.

THE Medical profession are now ordering Cadbury's Cocoa Essence in thousands of cases, because it contains more nutritious and flesh-forming elements than any other beverage, and is preferable to the thick starchy Cocoa ordinarily sold. When you ask for Cadbury's Cocoa Essence be sure that you get it, as shopkeepers often push imitations for the sake of extra profit. Makers to the Queen. Paris depot: 90, Faubourg St. Honoré.

EPPS'S CACÉOINE (Quintessence of Cacáo).—Cacéoine is not so rich as chocolate, or substantial as prepared cocoa, but when made is a very fluid beverage, with an almond-like flavour, clean to the palate as tea, and refreshing to a degree, owing to the volatile action of the set free active principle of cacáo, theobromine. Cacéoine is the one stimulative warm drink that affords sterling support to the system. Each packet is labelled "James Epps and Co., Homœopathic Chemists, 48, Threadneedle-street, and 170, Piccadilly.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—It is admitted by everyone who has personally tried these noble remedies for any eruptions, sores, ulcers, bad legs, &c., or who have witnessed their purifying and healing effects on others suffering from such maladies, that nothing more can be desired than these medicaments possess. The Ointment relaxes the swollen muscles, diminishes inflammation, assuages pain, and even alleviates dangerous maladies which may have lasted for months, or even years. Holloway's excellent preparations are effective singly, resistless in combination, and have been recommended by grateful patients to be sought as the alternatives when all other means of regaining health have failed. Their action is temperate, not violent, or reducing.

MOTHERS AND NURSES.—For children cutting teeth nothing equals Mrs. Johnson's Soothing Syrup, which contains no narcotic, and applied to the gums gives speedy relief. Of all chemists, 2s. 9d. per bottle.

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Published by W. R. WILLCOX, at No. 18, Bouverie Street, London; and Printed by R. K. BURT and Co., Wine Office Court, Fleet Street, London.—Wednesday, June 5, 1878.